



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Continuing Studies
Emergency and Disaster Management

MPEM 800: International Disasters

Executive Master's Program in Emergency and Disaster Management

Spring 2017

Start/End Dates: March 15 to May 6, 2017

Online Class: Every Wednesday from March 15 to April 26 (8-10PM EST/EDT)

London Residency - April 30 -May 6, 2017

Instructor: Albert Gembara

Contact Info: Albert.Gembara@georgetown.edu

Skype ID: albert.gembara

Office Hours: Please email to schedule appointment

Course Description

The MPEM-800 course will look at disaster management in the context of international disasters and humanitarian crises. By providing an interdisciplinary knowledge base, this course will equip students with both theoretical and practical management skills in preparation, response and recovery from natural and manmade disasters, while also touching on complex emergencies and conflict.

The foundation of this course will provide students with an understanding of how legal, ethical, and socioeconomic factors influence humanitarian action. The core curriculum is designed to introduce a framework for contingency and response planning, combined with the development of analytical skills to support disaster management policies.

Effective disaster response demands that emergency managers consume and distill massive amounts of information and data from many sources. Students will learn about the information management practices employed by humanitarian actors and will become familiar with basic visualization and geospatial applications in order to better leverage data for planning and decision-making.

There are also calls for greater innovation and more inclusive ways of managing disasters and delivering humanitarian assistance. This course will evaluate innovations, technologies and non-traditional/private sector entities that are disrupting the disaster management and humanitarian assistance landscape.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how legal, ethical, and socioeconomic factors influence emergency and disaster management by exploring these aspects in an international context.
- Understand the international humanitarian architecture and foreign perspectives on preparedness, response and recovery.

- Develop analytical skills to support disaster management policies.
- Understand the role of the United States Government in support foreign disaster assistance.

Course Schedule

- Week 1 (March 12 -18)
Foundations of Humanitarian Assistance and International Disaster Management
- Week 2 (March 19 – 25)
Complex Emergencies and Civil- Military Engagement
- Week 3 (March 26 - April 1)
Humanitarian Architecture / USG Support to Foreign Disasters
- Week 4 (April 2 – 8)
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
- Week 5 (April 9 -15)
Humanitarian Technical Sectors
- Week 6 (April 16 – 22)
Disaster Response Coordination
- Week 7 (April 23 – 29)
Humanitarian Operations and Logistics
- Week 8 (April 30 – May 6)
Residency in London, England

Required Texts

1. Coppola, D. P. (2015). Introduction to international disaster management. 3rd Edition
Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann. ISBN 9780128014776 ebook ISBN 9780128017036
2. Meier, P. (2015). Digital humanitarians: How big data is changing the face of humanitarian response. ISBN 9781482248395
3. Olafsson, G. R. (2014). Crisis leader: the art of leading in times of crisis. Lorien Consulting. ASIN: B00HRCCZQ6

Attendance Policy

Students are expected at all meetings of the course. The SCS attendance policy is strictly adhered to. We do understand that from time to time, family, personal and or work emergencies may arise. In those circumstances, please contact your professor immediately. A student who misses more than two classes is subject to withdrawal from the class by the Dean and a final grade of "F" in the course. Late arrivals of more than fifteen minutes after the start of class will count as

one absence. Two late arrivals will count as two missed classes, and, will result in withdrawal from the class by the Dean and a final grade of "F" in the course. The online portion of the course will utilize Canvas and Zoom. Students should ensure that they can successfully login to the system prior to the first scheduled class.

Late Assignment Policy

Except in rare circumstances, late assignments are not accepted. In case of an emergency, this rule can be waived with appropriate documentation and cause. Requests for extensions must reach us no later than 48 hours before the assignment is due.

Classroom Etiquette, Class Participation, and Other Guidelines

- The online classroom should be a place where students can share ideas and different points of view.
 - Debate is healthy and encouraged.
 - State your viewpoint and back it with evidence.
 - Be respectful of fellow students' views.
 - Focus your disagreements on ideas, not on people.
- Always use the proper title for your professor or guest lecturer: Dr., Prof., or if you are in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Use of your webcam is required during online class.
- Please try to limit side chats or texting during online class.
- Active participation is expected during class and throughout the residency.

Assignments

Weekly Reading and Quizzes

- Students will be required to read policy documents, articles and academic literature each week.
- There will be a short online quiz covering the readings for each week. Students will be required to complete the quiz prior to joining the weekly lecture. The quizzes will be graded as pass/fail, and will be factored into the overall course participation grade.
- Readings will be listed in the MPEM-800 syllabus addendums and posted in Canvas.

Weekly Written Assignments

- Students will provide a series of written assignments (e.g. policy memorandum, case study analysis, point papers) based on each week's theme and content.
- Written assignments will be no longer than 1-2 pages.
- Each week's assignment will also correspond with a particular element of the overarching planning framework being introduced in this course.
- Detailed descriptions and a rubric for each assignment will be listed in the MPEM-800 syllabus addendums and posted in Canvas.
- All written assignments should conform to APA style guide.

Culminating Project (Contingency/Response Plan and Presentation)

- A detailed description for the culminating project will be posted on the course page in Canvas.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Writing Assignment #1	10%
Writing Assignment #2	10%
Writing Assignment #3	10%
Writing Assignment #4	10%
Writing Assignment #5	10%
Writing Assignment #6	10%
Culminating Project - Contingency/Response Plan and Presentation	30%
Participation (Online Class and Weekly Quizzes)	10%
Total	100%

A	95-100%	B-	80-82%
A-	90-94%	C	70-79%
B+	87-89%	F	0-69%
B	83-86%		

Withdrawal Policy and Calendar

[EDM staff will provide this each semester]

Academic Resources

Library Services

SCS Librarian: Jessica Vanderhoff
202-784-7389; jessica.vanderhoff@georgetown.edu
<http://www.library.georgetown.edu/scs>
Emergency and Disaster Management Research Guide:
<http://guides.library.georgetown.edu/EDM>

Writing Center

202-687-4246; <http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu/>

Academic Resource Center

202-687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu; <https://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/>

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities have the right to specific accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the nature of the course. Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (ARC) (202-784-7366; arc@georgetown.edu; <http://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/>) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

Georgetown Honor System

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic and personal integrity in pursuit of their education at Georgetown University. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense, and students found in violation are subject to academic penalties that include, but are not limited to, failure of the course, termination from the program, and revocation of degrees already conferred. The Georgetown Honor Code pledge reads as follows:

In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: to be honest in any academic endeavor and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.