



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Continuing Studies
Emergency and Disaster Management

MPEM-900 Capstone

Wednesday 8-10PM ET online, unless otherwise noted

Capstone Residency: Washington, DC, July 31 – August 5, 2017

Summer 2017

Instructor: Name

David Kaufman

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Office Hours: By appointment

Note: students can expect a response within 48 hours

Course Description

The Capstone Course will provide an opportunity for students to reflect on and deepen their understanding of social, psychological, functional, and technical dimensions of emergency and disaster management. Core readings will focus on strategic thinking and leadership as the underlying, necessary framework for organizational success in emergency management organizations, and explore the art and science of disciplined innovation and follow-through to influence change (e.g., value innovation, strategy, managing performance). Specific attention will be paid to examining approaches to leadership and decision-making in crisis, in the context of emergency management, including sense-making, meta-leadership, and data-driven decision making. We will also explore how social determinants affect emergency management outcomes and the role of emergency management in broader issues of resilience and governance.

The distance learning portion of the course will be organized in weekly mini-modules focused on specific topics critical to understanding future directions in the field of emergency management. Each module will be accompanied by specific readings and asynchronous materials. The Capstone Residency will bring the concepts from the core readings together with content from the topical modules and utilize classroom exercises, case studies, and guest speakers to explore their practical application in emergency management.

Learning Objectives

- Understand key drivers of change and their impact on the field of emergency management
- Appreciate the value of innovation in and understand the creative and disciplined leadership skills and intentions of strategic planning
- Demonstrate analytical skills, ability to formulate a research question, perform independent research in the field of emergency management, and present findings in oral and written communication
- Succeed at integrating course concepts, where appropriate, with learning from across the program and apply to students' Capstone Project

Required Texts

The following are required texts for this course, also referred to as “core readings”:

- The Changing Face of Strategic Crisis Management; OECD; 2015; can be read online [here](#) at no charge
- Blue Ocean Strategy, Expanded Edition; W. Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne; 2015; ISBN-10: 1625274491
- The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes – and Why; Amanda Ripley; 2009; ISBN-10: 0307352900
- Megacommunities: How Leaders of Government, Business and Non-Profits Can Tackle Today's Global Challenges Together; Mark Gerencser, Reginald Van Lee, Fernando Napolitano, and Christopher Kelly; 2009; ISBN-10: 023061132X
- Strategies for Supporting Community Resilience; Robert Bach, editor; CRISMART 2016; pdf is available [here](#) at no charge

The following are encouraged but optional supplemental readings; aspects of these materials will be addressed during synchronous and asynchronous sessions:

- The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations; Ori Brafman and Rod Beckstrom; 2008, ISBN-10: 1591841836
- The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything; Stephen M. R. Covey; 2008; ISBN-10: 1416549005
- Learning from the Octopus: How Secrets from Nature Can Help Us Fight Terrorist Attacks, Natural Disasters, and Disease; Rafe Sagarin; 2012; ISBN-10: 0465021832

Note: additional readings and multimedia materials will be assigned for select modules during the course. Please see Capstone Course Addendum for specifics.

Attendance Policy

This class relies heavily on attendance and active participation. Punctual attendance is critical. As outlined by the university, missing more than two classes will result in a final grade reduction of one level (for example, an A will be converted to a A-). Absences for classes beyond the initial two will result in further reduction of the final grade. If you are absent for more than four classes, you will be in danger of failing this course.

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments turned in late will result in a grade reduction of one level (for example, an A will be converted to an A-) for each day that it is late. If you have extenuating circumstances, speak with me as far in advance of the due date as possible.

Classroom Etiquette, Class Participation, and Other Guidelines

It is understood and expected that students will be expending considerable time and energy working on their Capstone Projects during this course. A broad range of subject matter is incorporated into this course; students are encouraged to craft their own line of reading and study, and to actively apply their learning and core course concepts to their capstone projects. Active participation in class discussions, respect for others and for divergent viewpoints, and support for one’s own and for others’ learning is expected at all times.

Assignments

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the following:

Classroom Participation	10%
Assignment: Strategy Canvas	10%
Capstone Poster Presentation, presented during Capstone Residency	10%
Capstone Briefing, Delivered during Capstone Residency	10%
Capstone Project	60%
Total	100%

Additional information on course assignment(s) is available in the Capstone Course Addendum and/or will be provided during the course.

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

Students wishing to withdraw from this course may do so by being placed on academic leave and will be allowed to join next year's cohort at the beginning of the same course. Students who withdraw may receive refunds based upon the request date of the withdrawal (see chart below).

The last day to withdraw from this course is August 17, 2017.

Dates	Percentage Refunded
May 30 – Jun 1	100%
Jun 2 - 13	80%
Jun 14 – 24	70%
Jun 25 – Jul 8	50%
Jul 9 - 16	40%

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.

ADDENDUM – COURSE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR