



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
School of Continuing Studies  
Emergency and Disaster Management

## MPDM-801 – Applied Emergency Management: Chile Immersion

School of Continuing Studies | Emergency and Disaster Management Program

Course Syllabus – Summer 2017

May 22 – August 20, 2017

**Instructor: Tim Manning**

### Course Description

Emergency and disaster management is both a theoretical and applied field of study. This field course in Applied Emergency Management provides an opportunity for students to observe how emergency and disaster management concepts can be applied to reduce potential losses from disaster events. This course is designed to demonstrate practical application of classroom concepts with a service-based learning emergency and disaster management project through an immersion experience. This immersion experience is designed to provide students with a real world example of the importance of the application of specific concepts learned in the classroom at the appropriate phase of the traditional disaster cycle. The course is also designed to illustrate opportunities, constraints, and challenges that typically promote/impede emergency and disaster management. The course will demonstrate all aspects of emergency and disaster management from preparedness to response, and finally recovery.

### Learning Objectives

- 1) Understand how emergency and disaster management concepts are applied in a real-world setting for mitigation of societal losses;
- 2) Engage in a service-based learning project with hands-on experience of the application of emergency and disaster management strategies;
- 3) Illustrate opportunities, constraints, and challenges that typically promote/impede emergency and disaster management;
- 4) Experience unique (International/US) perspectives of emergency and disaster management opportunities and challenges;
- 5) Practice the application of appropriate emergency and disaster management techniques to assist in decision-making with real-world events.

### Required Texts

None. Citations for any required and recommended readings will be provided via Canvas.

### Course Structure and Travel Component

The instructor will host four synchronous course meetings via Zoom prior to the trip to Chile. Class will not meet every week of the summer term. Students can expect to be assigned readings, lectures, and discussion on topics that will prepare you for the trip. Once the group is

back in the US, and before the conclusion of the course, students will have typical end-of-semester assignments such as papers and presentations.

Enrollment in this course involves mandatory travel to Chile. Students will spend a total of ten days on the ground, plus transit days. This is a significant time commitment; if you are taking additional courses in the summer term, you will miss up to two class meetings of on-campus courses. The EDM program will be coordinating with your other instructors to ensure that you are able to make up work missed in those courses without penalty. However, please note that you will absolutely have to make up the work. You will not have large amounts of free time during the Chile travel to work on assignments for other courses, so you will need to plan accordingly and ensure that you can budget time and effort to catch up when you return.

The field course component will consist of a combination of briefings, meetings, field lectures, field work, and group and individual research, and will be conducted logistically roughly like a disaster deployment using the National Incident Management System – Incident Command System, with daily planning sessions and Incident Action Plans, communication plans, and organization.

### **Classroom Etiquette, Class Participation, and Other Guidelines**

A successful and beneficial class depends on the active attention and engagement of all students. This course seeks to foster challenging and robust dialogue that is grounded in personal experience, course material, critical thought and respect for others. Students are expected to come to class and deploy prepared for participating and leading discussions and engagement with guest speakers.

Students should be advised the field portion of the course is international and plan accordingly including the possession of a valid passport and necessary visas as may be required depending on nationality of origin.

From the US State Department: “U.S. citizens entering Chile must have a passport in good condition, valid for the period of your stay. U.S. citizens traveling to Chile for recreation, tourism, business, or academic conferences do not need to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in Chile if traveling with a tourist passport. All official and diplomatic passport holders are required to obtain a visa prior to travel regardless of the purpose of their visit. For those traveling with a tourist passport, a Tourist Card or printed receipt will be issued to each visitor at immigration for a stay of up to 90 days.”

source: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/chile.html> retrieved 5/5/2017 14:43

Students should also consider augmenting their mobile cellular plan with international coverage for the duration of the trip, but that is not a requirement. Students should also check with their banking and credit card institutions to ensure access to adequate funds while traveling internationally.

Field work will involve long days of inter- and intracity travel between locations, meetings with senior officials, and time outdoors in the field in potentially rugged conditions. Students are expected to pack and plan accordingly. Details will be discussed synchronous class sessions.

Specific methods of instruction include readings and lectures, individual written assignments and reflections, group discussions, individual presentations, and a final project. The four course session prior to the trip will meet virtually through the online videoconferencing tool Zoom.

### **Attendance Policy**

Field courses rely on attendance, active participation, and full accountability of each student. Absence or lateness delays departure of the entire class and impacts the full day's schedule. Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions and activities of the course. Each day of the trip, exclusive of travel to and from Chile, will be considered a class day. A detail daily trip itinerary will be provided to students prior to, and revised throughout, the trip. Morning assembly, evening dismissal, and free times times will vary and are subject to change as conditions on the ground require. Attendance is required and no absences will be excused. Emergencies arising requiring absence from any of the field sessions will require withdraw from the course. Punctual attendance is critical and late arrivals at assembly times of more than 15 minutes will count as a tardy. Two tardy arrivals will result in reduction of the final grade. If you are tardy for three or more sessions and/or absent one full day or more of the field work, you will be in danger of failing this course.

For class sessions in advance of or following the travel portion, if an emergency or extenuating circumstance arises, discuss with the instructor as far in advance as possible with a proposal to make up the work you will miss.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Students will be expected to keep a log book/journal during the trip and track activities as if they were deployed on a disaster and actively participate the conduct of the trip. Format and expected content of the logs will be discussed during classroom sessions prior to the trip. Grading will be based on thoroughness of content, for, and style. Log books will be collected at the conclusion of the trip and returned to students following grading.

The trip will logistically follow the form of a disaster deployment to the degree practical, including conducting incident action planning meetings, daily incident action plans, and filling varying ICS positions as assigned. In addition to the usual expected participation in discussions and lectures, participation in trip conduct and ICS rolls will count toward the student's participation grade.

Students will be expected to provide a briefing (oral presentation, no visual aids or powerpoint) to the group at least once throughout the trip on either a hazard or disaster specific to a given location on the trip itinerary. Briefing assignments will be made no later than the June 28<sup>th</sup> class session prior to departure.

A core element of the trip will be a service-based learning project. This project will consist of field work in support of the local government/population in their emergency management program. Project details, format, and grading rubrics will be posted to Canvas. Students will be expected to provide a final trip report/presentation on return from Chile prior to the end of the semester.

Specific grading rubrics can be found on the Canvas course site. All assignments should adhere to APA citation standards.

	<b>Activity / Assignment</b>	<b>Grading Percent</b>
1	Participation	15%
2	Individual Field briefings	15%
3	Field log	10 %
4	Service-Based Learning Project	50%
5	Final Presentation	10%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

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