

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**  
**COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Course Title: Disaster Vulnerability  
Course Number: ( 0 + 6:420  
Course Credits: 3 credit hours  
Prerequisites: 2235:305

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**Analysis of citizen actions regarding major disasters including perspectives of individuals and emergency managers using case studies, theories, and social problems.

**Program Outcomes:**  
Students will gain a better understanding of:

- 1) the principles associated with disasters and disasters as social problems
- 2) various theories of collective behavior
- 3) utilization of case studies with collective behavior and disasters
- 4) emergency management fundamentals (preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation) in regard to disasters and behavior concepts for responders and emergency managers in regard to disasters

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT:**

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

Demonstrate knowledge of social problems associated with disasters through assignments and final project.

Demonstrate knowledge of collective behavior theories through assignments and final project.

Use case studies in assignments and final project.

Utilization of emergency management fundamentals in assignments and final project.

Course Outline :

Topic I: Disaster Principles

What is a Disaster?

Disasters as Social Problems

Topic II: Sociological Theories

Introduction to Collective Behavior

Social Contagion Theory

Emergent Norm Perspective

Value - Added Theory

Assembly Perspective and Sociocybernetic Theory

Convergence Theory

Learning Theory

Social Identity Theory

Collective Behavior Categories

Topic III: Disasters and Individual Impacts

Disaster Mythology

Crime and Disasters

Disaster Finance

Topic IV: Emergency Management Issues

Media and Disasters

Injuries and Fatalities

Topic V: Sustainability

Grading Scale:

A	•	493.50 - 525.00 points
A-	90 - 93%	472.50 - 493.49 points
B+	88 - 89%	462.00 - 472.49 points
B	83 - 87%	435.75 - 461.99 points
B-	80 - 82%	420.00 - 435.74 points
C+	78 - 79%	409.50 - 419.99 points
C	73 - 77%	383.25 - 409.49 points
C-	70 - 72%	367.50 - 383.24 points
D+	68 - 69%	357.00 - 367.49 points
D	63 - 67%	330.75 - 356.99 points
D-	60 - 62%	315.00 - 330.74 points
F	"	"

S R L Q W V

Course Rationale :

This class will introduce the basic components of collective behavior along with societal actions before, during, and after a disaster. In addition, the course will discuss various cultural aspects of disasters. It is important that emergency managers know the fundamentals of disasters in regard to preparedness,

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