

# Fundamentals of Emergency Management

York University, School of Administrative Studies

Mike O'Brien, CD MA CBCP

## Course Outline

### Course Details

- **Course Code:** AP/DEMS2700 F 2021
- **Location:** REMT course - online/remote with scheduled, online/remote Zoom meetings.
- **Class times:** Thursdays 4-7pm
- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Instructor Details**
- **E-Mail:** [mdobrien@yorku.ca](mailto:mdobrien@yorku.ca)
- **Tel:** 416 206 1010
- **Office hours:** By appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course presents the basic theories, principles, and approaches to comprehensive emergency management. The main purpose is to introduce students to the discipline of emergency management, and to familiarize students with fundamental concepts, methods, and issues in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Various disaster and emergency case studies from both within Canada and internationally will be presented. Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Critically reflect on the relationship of humans with planet earth, and the interaction of natural hazards with human risk and vulnerability.
- Understand the need for emergency/disaster management, and how they interlink with sustainable development.
- Discuss emergency and disaster situations affecting people across the world today.
- Explain the framework of comprehensive emergency management and its mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery phases.
- Understand the variety of hazards that exist and discuss hazard-specific and all-hazard approaches to emergency management.
- Explain various aspects of emergency preparedness in theory and practice, including government preparedness and public education, and obstacles to effective preparedness measures.
- Describe the main activities of the emergency response phase, such as early warning, evacuation, needs assessment, and search and rescue.
- Understand the main concepts, functions and activities associated with disaster recovery, with an emphasis on reconstruction efforts and fostering resilience.
- Explain the main players, processes and agreements shaping emergency mitigation and responses internationally.
- Articulate the function of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) and the Incident Management System (IMS) in disaster management.
- Critically reflect on the role of media, social media, and disaster communications in disaster/emergency management.

## **READINGS**

**Required:** Damon Coppola, *“Introduction to International Disaster Management”*, Butterworth-Heinemann. *Fourth Edition* (Third Edition also acceptable)

\*Note this textbook is available on the York University website as an ebook.

## **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Topic 1. Management of Disasters and Emergencies**

Content:

- Disasters and Emergencies throughout History
- The History of Disaster and Emergency Management
- Modern Disaster Management
- Disaster Trends

Required Readings: Chapter 1: The Management of Disasters (textbook)

### **Topic 2. Hazards**

Content:

- Hazard Concepts
- Hazard Identification
- Hazard Analysis
- Types of Hazards

Required Readings: Chapter 2: Hazards (textbook)

### **Topic 3. Risk and Vulnerability**

Content:

- Definitions and Concepts
- Components of Risk
- Risk Analysis
- Risk Policies
- Vulnerability

Required Readings: Chapter 3: Risk and Vulnerability (textbook)

### **Topic 4. Mitigation**

Content:

- Definitions and Concepts
- Types of Mitigation Measures
- Mitigation Planning
- Obstacles to Effective Mitigation

Required Readings: Chapter 4: Mitigation (textbook)

## **Topic 5. Incident Management System**

Content:

- Introduction to Ontario Incident Management System

Required Readings:

- Ontario Incident Management System 100 (manual)

## **Topic 6. Preparedness Planning and Management**

Content:

- Definitions and Concepts
- Components of Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Preparedness Planning and Plans
- Obstacles to Effective Emergency Preparedness

Required Readings: Chapter 5: Preparedness (textbook)

## **Topic 7. Response Planning and Management**

Content:

- Definitions and Concepts
- Emergency Response Process
- Issues in Emergency Response

Required Readings: Chapter 6: Response (textbook)

## **Topic 8. Recovery Planning and Management**

Content:

- Definitions and Concepts
- Components of Recovery
- Types of Recovery
- Recovery Planning
- Main Issues in Disaster Recovery

Required Readings: Chapter 7: Recovery (textbook)

## **Topic 9. Participants – Governmental Disaster Management**

Content:

- Governmental Emergency Management Structures
- Emergency Management Participants
- Organizational Structures
- Bilateral Assistance

Required Readings: Chapter 8: Participants (textbook)

Week	Key Dates	Topic	Activities / Submissions
1	September 9, 4pm	Introduction / Orientation	Live Discussion
2	Asynchronous	Management of Disasters and Emergencies	Online lecture
3	September 21, Midnight	Incident Management System Course	Assignment 1
4	September 23, 4pm	Hazards Pt 1	Online lecture / live discussion
4	September 28, Midnight	Introductions	Online Submission
5	Asynchronous	Hazards Pt 2	Online lecture
5	October 5, Midnight	Disaster Consequences	Assignment 2 (via Turnitin)
5	October 7, 4pm	Mitigation	Online lecture / live discussion
6		Reading Week	
7	October 21, 4pm	Risk and Vulnerability	Online lecture / live discussion
8	October 26, Midnight	Hazard Discussion	Assignment 3
8	Asynchronous	Whole Community Emergency Preparedness	Online lecture
9	November 2, Midnight	Mitigation Paper	Assignment 4 (via Turnitin)
9	November 4, 4pm	Preparedness Planning and Management	Online lecture / live discussion
10	November 9, Midnight	Risk and Vulnerability Discussion	Assignment 5
10	Asynchronous	Response Planning and Management	Online lecture
11	November 16, Midnight	Whole Community Emergency Preparedness	Assignment 6
11	November 18, 4pm	Incident Management System	Online lecture / live discussion
12	November 23, Midnight	Response Discussion	Assignment 8
12	Asynchronous	Recovery Planning and Management	Online lecture
13	November 30, Midnight	Emergency Preparedness Campaign	Assignment 7 (via Turnitin)
13	December 2, 4pm	Participants – Governmental Disaster Management	Online lecture / live discussion
14	December 7, Midnight	Recovery Discussion	Assignment 9

## TEACHING METHODS

The course will consist solely of computer-mediated activities (electronic learning). Despite these circumstances, the course aims to replicate a classroom experience course through scheduled, online/remote meetings through video lectures, interactive forums, and subject-matter-expert interviews. Through online discussion and interactivity, it is hoped that improved student engagement will be achieved, and that passive transmission of information will be minimized or eliminated.

Teaching methods and use of technology in this course are as follows:

- **eClass** – This course has an eClass page. All students who register for the course should be able to access the course at: eClass.yorku.ca using their York Passport IDs and Passwords.
- **Open discussion** – Group discussions are encouraged using online forums on the course eClass page, as well as during select zoom sessions.
- **Narrated PowerPoint Presentations** – Lectures will serve to enrich, clarify, and illustrate critical content in readings.
- **Short Videos** – YouTube videos will be used to enhance student learning.
- **Interviews** – Interviews with Subject-Matter-Expert practitioners directly involved in the topics and contexts under discussion will be used to augment course content.

*Please be advised that lecture and course materials, including lecture notes, assignments, and quizzes, are solely for the use of course participants. They are not to be recorded for any other use nor are they to be reproduced or distributed by any means, including online. Strict measures will be implemented for those that breach this class policy. Respect this request.*

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

- **Online Participation** 10%
- **Three Academic Papers** 85%
- **IMS 100 Training** 5%

A detailed description of course evaluation criteria is as follows:

**Participation:** Online participation is an important component of the course and should be taken seriously. It is expected that students will participate in online forum discussions throughout the semester. Students should make at least **five substantial contributions** to discussion forums.

Posts should be between 100 and 200 words and can include references in a recognized bibliographic format where necessary. Posts should demonstrate reflection on material. Marks are provided for completion and quality, and additional marks are awarded if a student posts more than the required amount.

Students will make at least one comment / response to other contributors' contributions in each discussion forum.

**Academic Papers:** Effective writing skills are important in Disaster and Emergency Management. Students will be required to write academic papers each on disaster management topics (details to be provided).

- Paper 1 must be submitted online via eClass/Turnitin by 11.59pm on October 5, 2021. The paper will be worth 25%.
- Paper 2 must be submitted online via eClass/Turnitin by 11.59pm on November 2, 2021. The paper will be worth 30%.
- Paper 3 must be submitted online via eClass/Turnitin by 11.59pm on November 30, 2021. The paper will be worth 30%.

Assignments submitted after their deadline will be subject to a 5% reduction in marks per day, including weekends, for up to 10 days. Thereafter, students will receive a mark of zero. If a student needs extra time, valid written proof for the delay must be provided at least 3 days prior to the deadline date for consideration. Papers with aspects plagiarized will receive a mark of zero.

**IMS 100 Training:** Students are required to complete the free online IMS 100 training offered through Emergency Management Ontario. Students should do either the self-study or e-learning version.

The training takes roughly 3 hours to complete. Visit the training portal at [www.emergencymanagementontario.ca](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca) to access the course. Once you complete and pass the exam, you will receive your IMS 100 certificate. Students should upload their electronic IMS 100 training

certificates on Moodle once received. The certificate is worth 5% and due by 11.59pm on September 21, 2021.

## **MISSED AND LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received/completed in the time frame specified.

There will be no make-up for missed online participation at any time. If all 5 posts are not made by the due date, the student will only be marked on those submissions that they have made, if any.

Academic Papers received later than the due date will be penalized. 5% of the final grade will be deducted for each day that the project is late, including weekends. Requests for extensions will only be granted if valid reasons are provided at least 3 days prior to the assignment being due.

## **RELEVANT UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

### **Applicable to all ADMS and DEMS courses**

**Deferred Final Exams:** Deferred standing may be granted to students who are unable to write their final examination at the scheduled time or to submit their outstanding course work on the last day of classes. Students are not required to submit a doctor's note or an Attending Physician's Statement in support of requests for deferred standing for courses impacted by the COVID-19 situation. Details can be found at <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/deferred-standing>

**DSA Form:** [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred\\_standing\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf)

To apply for deferred standing, students must register at: <http://sas-app.laps.yorku.ca>

Followed by handing in a completed original Deferred Standing Agreement (DSA) form and supporting documentation directly to the main office of the School of Administrative Studies (282 Atkinson) and add your ticket number to the DSA form. During this time of remote learning, you will be required to submit the forms via email to [apsas@yorku.ca](mailto:apsas@yorku.ca). The DSA and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than five (5) business days from the date of the exam. These requests will be considered on their merit and decisions will be made available by logging into the above-mentioned link. No individualized communication will be sent by the School to the students (no letter or e-mails).

Students with approved DSA will be able to write their deferred examination during the School's deferred examination period. Deferred exams might take place during the regular exams period or in subsequent weeks depending on the course; precise dates are known when the Office of the Registrar publishes the final exam schedule of the term. No further extensions of deferred exams shall be granted. The format and covered content of the deferred examination may be different from that of the originally scheduled examination. The deferred exam may be closed book, cumulative and comprehensive and may include all subjects/topics of the textbook whether they have been covered in class or not.

**Academic Honesty:** The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies considers breaches of the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty to be serious matters. The Senate Policy on Academic Honesty is an affirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. As a clear sense of academic honesty and responsibility is fundamental to good scholarship, the policy recognizes the general responsibility of all faculty members to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to be mindful of and abide by such

standards. Suspected breaches of academic honesty will be investigated and charges shall be laid if reasonable and probable grounds exist.

Students should review the York Academic Honesty policy for themselves at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

Students might also wish to review the interactive on-line Tutorial for students on academic integrity, at: <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

**Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy:** The grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) shall be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and, under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade, with the following exceptions:

*Note: Under unusual and/or unforeseeable circumstances which disrupt the academic norm, instructors are expected to provide grading schemes and academic feedback in the spirit of these regulations, as soon as possible.* For more information on the Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy, please visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=86>

**In-Class Tests and Exams - the 20% Rule:** For all Undergraduate courses, except those which regularly meet on Friday evening or on a weekend, tests or exams worth more than 20% will not be held in the two weeks prior to the beginning of the official examination period. For further information on the 20% Rule, please visit: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/limits-on-the-worth-of-examinations-in-the-final-classes-of-a-term-policy/>

**Reappraisals:** Students may, with sufficient academic grounds, request that a final grade in a course be reappraised (which may mean the review of specific pieces of tangible work). Non-academic grounds are not relevant for grade reappraisals; in such cases, students are advised to petition to their home Faculty. Students are normally expected to first contact the course director to discuss the grade received and to request that their tangible work be reviewed. Tangible work may include written, graphic, digitized, modeled, video recording or audio recording formats, but not oral work. Students need to be aware that a request for a grade reappraisal may result in the original grade being raised, lowered or confirmed. For reappraisal procedures and information, please visit the Office of the Registrar site at: <http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/grade-reappraisal-policy>

**Accommodation Procedures:** LA&PS students who have experienced a misfortune or who are too ill to attend the final examination in an ADMS course should not attempt to do so; they must pursue deferred standing. Other students should contact their home Faculty for information. For further information, please visit: <http://ds.info.yorku.ca/academic-support-accomodations/>

**Religious Accommodation:** York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. For more information on religious accommodation, please visit: <https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

#### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (Senate Policy)**

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given

sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder. For more information, please visit the Student Accessibility Services (formerly known as Counselling and Disability Services) website at <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>

York's disabilities offices and the Registrar's Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. For more information on alternate exams and tests please visit <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>

**Please alert the Course Director as soon as possible should you require special accommodations.**