

Research Seminar in Disaster & Emergency Management

DEMS 4708 M - Winter 2023

Course Director: Jeremy Paulus

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Office Hours: Available by appointment

Email Availability: Email will be monitored (Monday – Friday, between 9:00-5:00 pm) and responded to within 2 weekdays

Administrative Notes

Technical and other course requirements:

- Use a stable, high-speed Internet connection, a laptop with a webcam and microphone or a smart device with these features
- Consider using [Speedtest](#) to test internet speed before the course begins
- Have Zoom application installed and tested to ensure functionality
- Course website will be through Moodle.

Student resources and computing support:

- [Computing for Students Website](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

Class times and locations:

- Blended delivery with asynchronous, synchronous, and in-person classes
- Live classes occur on Fridays 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
- Schedule and Zoom link details provided on eClass
- In-Person class location: **R S105**

Course Details

Course objectives and learning outcomes:

- Enhance skills and apply critical analysis to research topics related to emergency/disaster management and business continuity/resilience
- Develop original ideas and identify opportunities for how research can contribute to pragmatic solutions
- Improve writing and presentation skills using various formats including in-person and virtually via synchronous and asynchronous platforms

Organization of the course:

This course will be offered through blended delivery as outlined above. The format of the course is interactive and discussion-based. Class discussions, forums, presentation, and literature review will make up the course's primary organization. Flexibility will be applied by the Course Director to be responsive to class interests and/or current events.

Expanded course description:

AP/DEMS 4708 3.00 is a research seminar course that addresses topics in Disaster & Emergency Management. It is designed to intensify the students' knowledge of historical and contemporary disasters and enhance their appreciation of the discipline's complexity. The particular topics of this course could include the complex dynamics between hazards, people, and the environment, disaster risk and resilience, climate change impacts, cyber and technical disasters, humanitarian assistance and refugee issues, disaster recovery, continuity of critical functions during emergencies, health hazards, disaster economics, and community participation for resilience building.

Course readings:

The course does not require textbooks. All required class readings will be outlined in the eClass schedule and be available at YorkU library or provided by the Course Director.

Course evaluation:

Criteria used to guide grading for these course requirements is found at the course Moodle site:

- Ongoing synchronous/in-person class participation = 30%
- 4 asynchronous/online discussion forums = 5% each (total of 20%)
- Assignment presentation = 25%
- Assignment literature review = 25%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students are preferred to appear on video for synchronous discussions in order to facilitate a cohesive and collaborative environment.

Course policies

The course will seek guidance from the university information and policy [guidelines](#) to conduct the course. In particular, 1) the zoom recordings should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to duplicate, copy and/or distribute the recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also [FIPPA](#)); and 3) all recordings will be destroyed after the end of classes.

Relevant Faculty / University Policies and Regulations**Applicable to all ADMS and DEMS courses:**

Should there be any updates to these regulations, you can review the most recent Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies [policies](#), which are used by SAS (the School of Administrative Studies).

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. Students might also wish to review the interactive online 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:

IMPORTANT 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 [here](#).

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](#).

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, modelled, 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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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](#). Please alert the Course Director as soon as possible should you require special accommodations.

Deferred final exams: * There will be no exam in this course *

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. Details can be found [here](#).

DSA Form: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/deferred_standing_agreement.pdf. In order 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 adding your ticket number to the DSA form. 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 emails).

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any request for deferred standing on medical grounds must comply with university regulations. At the time of writing this outline, the requirement for APS forms had been suspended due to COVID-19. If it resumes, the University will inform you of such resumption, and you would

include an Attending Physician's Statement form; a "Doctor's Note" will not be accepted.

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.

In-class tests and exams - the 20% rule: * There will be no in-class tests or exams in this course *

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](#).