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## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Health Sciences  
PBHE540  
Emergency Management Health and Medical Issues  
3 Credit Hours  
Length of Course: 8 weeks  
Prerequisite: None**

### Instructor Information

*Please refer to the Syllabus tab for your instructor's contact information and biography.*

### Course Description (Catalog)

This course is a study of the concepts of medical and healthcare issues in emergency management in mass-casualty and high-impact incidents. The student will learn about the planning and coordination--from the national to the local levels--necessary to respond to disasters that are natural (such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and heat waves); industrial, technological and transportation (such as hazardous materials, air crashes and mass gatherings); conflict-related (such as terrorist attacks and mass shootings); as well as the education, training and research done before, during and after these events.

### Course Scope

The purpose and scope of this course is to describe the fundamental attributes of Emergency Management and Medical Issues and to provide the student with the analytical tools to comprehend and explain how the system works. The course extends the student's horizon beyond the confines of different levels of Emergency Management and Medical Issues. This course considers all levels of government involved in emergency response during emergencies. The course also provides the intellectual foundation for further study in the field of Emergency Disaster Management.

*(Note to students: The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in this upper level undergraduate course assume that the student has completed all lower level general education and career planning course work necessary to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students*

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*who have not fulfilled all general education requirements through courses or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for this course).*

### Course Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on the human population.
- Demonstrate planning principles used during a disaster response, planning and coordination.
- Assess the emergency management response and healthcare issues associated with a natural disaster.
- Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.

### Program Objectives (Competencies):

**After completing this Emergency Management Health and Medical Issues course, MPH students will meet the following program objectives (Competencies):**

- Apply evidence-based principles and a scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision making in public health.
- Critically review and apply evidence-based evaluation of published medical and public health literature.
- Assess the moral and ethical precepts that underlie the goals of the public health profession.
- Synthesize concepts associated with specific research tasks: hypothesis construction, conceptualizing terms, literature review, data collection, critical analysis, and communicate findings.

### Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Forum questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

### Course Materials

#### Required Course Textbook:

[PBHE540] Syllabus  
September, 2016

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1. Reilly, M. J., & Markenson, D. S. (2011). Health care emergency management: Principles and practice. Jones & Bartlett Publishers. ISBN: 13:978-0-7637-5513-3
2. American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.
3. Other material can be found in the Lesson area of the course.

### **Academic Writing Requirements:**

The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual*. All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

### **Web Sites**

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

- None

## **Evaluation Procedures**

### **Forum**

Please join the forums each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Forums are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the forums and avoid copying and pasting from websites.

#### **Guidelines:**

- Post the initial response to each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday.
- Initial responses should be no less than 450 words.
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to at least 2 of your classmates in each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday.
- Replies to classmates should be no less than 200 words.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the forum.
- All forums can be accessed in the Forums section of the course.
- Forum rubric is included in the forum section of the course
- Additional guidelines for week one forum introduction are included in the forum tab within the course
- More in-depth specific instructions for each forum can be found in the forum tab within the course.
- **Late Forum posts receive a 10% per day late penalty. If your 2 peer responses are posted after the week is ended (after Day 7, Sunday) they receive a zero, in that the discussion is over and**

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you cannot receive credit for participation in a discussion with others after the discussion week has closed.

Students will be responsible for providing a peer response posting for at least two (2) of their peers' postings, unless there are less than 3 students in the course, where only one (1) peer posting will be required. Your peer postings should challenge or expound upon at least one of the points made by your peer, and "I agree" does not constitute as an adequate response. As graduate students, you will be expected to provide comprehensive, relevant and well supported points in your assignments.

We all bring something unique to the classroom, from our understanding, our experiences, and our value systems. We honor and respect each person's diverse beliefs to help us see beyond the classroom to be the most effective individuals we can be. Therefore, we should all be respectful of others while expressing our viewpoints and opinions. Proper netiquette behavior is expected. Any inflammatory, demeaning or disrespectful language in a posting will be immediately removed from the discussion space.

#### **Assignments:**

##### **Week 1: Understanding Healthcare Incident Management Systems**

You will define how healthcare incident management systems are used during in emergency and disaster scenarios. This internet exercise assignment should be at least 1- 1/2 pages long or at least 450 words. You will need to cite within the text and have a reference section in APA format (6th edition) as well as adhere to standard writing for graduate level.

Step 1: You will define healthcare incident command and management systems from your textbook and/or various sources first. You are demonstrating that you understood the concept. You are going to define this in 2-3 sentences by using your textbook and/or other sources.

Step 2: You are going to pick an article that utilized incident management and/or healthcare incident management systems. There are many recent examples such as Hurricane Katrina and the Terrorist Attacks during 911 and the Boston Marathon. You want to take a look at the following sites to select your article:

Journal of Public Health: <http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/>

European Journal of Public Health: <http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/>

American Journal of Epidemiology: <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/>

The Journal of Infectious Diseases: <http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/>

Clinical Infectious Diseases: <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/>

Health Promotion International: <http://heapro.oxfordjournals.org/>

or Go to the APUS library for other journals.

Step 3: Thoroughly READ the article and TAKE notes.

Step 4: Complete the writing of your summary with a review of this article. In your assessment of this article, you MUST examine how the fundamental principles of healthcare incident management systems

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were used in managing the emergency or disaster scenario. It is very important that you are able to paraphrase and apply critical thinking skills in this assignment.

Please make sure you cite within the text in APA format (6th edition) and have a reference section!

#### **Week 4: Short Paper on Natural Disasters and Emergency Management**

Your paper must be at least 5 pages and include: title page, an introduction, the body in which all items above are addressed, and reference page. You will need to write clearly and concisely to address all items in 5 pages. Again, use the paper template provided. Your paper must include at least 5 scholarly references (no Wikipedia!). References should be scholarly peer reviewed journal articles, official reports or other from reading resources. Avoid use of secondary sources like non-scholarly websites or textbooks.

Each disaster follows a general pattern in its development and dividing disaster into phases is useful from both a response and research point of view. Select a 'natural disaster', preferably one that may actually occur where you currently live (but one from the list below).

- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Tornado
- Flood
- Fire
- Winter Storm
- Heat-related Disaster
- Volcanic Eruption
- Avalanche

You must address in your paper the following:

- 1) Utilizing the fundamental principles of healthcare incident managements, describe how your selected disaster fits into these principles.
- 2) What issues in this disaster would make triaging of victims a challenge?
- 3) What types of injuries are most likely to occur?
- 4) What issues may uniquely effect the vulnerable populations (such as children and elderly populations) during this specific event?
- 5) What Public Health issues may ensue (ie: infectious disease outbreaks) and what can we do to mitigate the events?
- 6) How can interagency cooperation and local collaboration be effectively utilized?
- 7) Include any considerations unique to the disaster including pre & post-incident pitfalls.

#### **Week 7: Final paper on Emergency Management in Healthcare Issues**

An important component of this course is the final paper. You will select a topic pertinent to Emergency Management with a focus on a particular Medical or Healthcare Issue – it should be based on one we've discussed in the course Forums and it must include key disaster medicine / emergency management

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concepts learned in the course to demonstrate your overall content knowledge. You must also construct a new approach to addressing a particular aspect of the medical or healthcare-related emergency management issue.

Write a 10-12 page paper that includes: title page, abstract, introduction, a body in which the topic is developed and references cited, a well-defined conclusion, and reference page.

Your research should include a minimum of 4 of the following sections below (however, you will likely need to use more than 4 and/or create additional section headers as appropriate for your paper):

- Mechanism of Injury (MOI)
- Casualty figures
- Triage Challenges
- Medical response
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Inter-agency Collaboration
- Public Health issues
- Communication and Media Relations
- Preparedness-Planning
- Logistical issues
- Pitfalls

All papers must include a section on (AT LEAST 3 pages): New Approach (you will construct a new approach to addressing a particular aspect of the medical or healthcare-related emergency management issue you cover)

Your paper must include at least 7-10 scholarly references (no Wikipedia!). Avoid use of secondary sources like websites or textbooks, instead use primary, scholarly journals, reports, etc. If you include a graph or chart (data), the chart/graph should take up NO MORE than ¼ page, and be properly cited.

Your final paper (and all assignments) must follow American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines for reference and bibliographic citation. Refer to Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed). 2001. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. Other APA websites are available through the Library.

- More in-depth specific instructions for each assignment can be found in the Assignment tab within the course.
- **Assignments submitted late without advance notice will receive a 5% per day late penalty and will not be accepted for grading five (5) days past the due date.**

### Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument		Percentage of Final Grade
Forum(8 @ 100 pts each)	800 pts	<b>25%</b>
Introductory Forum Post	10 pts	
Week 1 Writing Assignment	100 pts	<b>10%</b>

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Week 4 Writing Assignment	100 pts	<b>25%</b>
Week 7 Research Paper	100 pts	<b>40%</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	1010 pts	<b>100%</b>

<b>Course Outline</b>						
<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Goals</b>	<b>Course Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Forum(s)</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction to Hospital and Healthcare Emergency Management and Healthcare Incident Management Systems	Understand the needs for and responsibilities of healthcare emergency management.  Examine the role of the hospital emergency manager.  Evaluate the activities performed by healthcare emergency management.	Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on the human population. Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.	Reilly and Markenson Chapters 1 & 2	Understanding Healthcare Incident Management Systems	Week 1 Forums: -Introduction -Role of the Healthcare Emergency Manger
<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Goals</b>	<b>Course Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Forum(s)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Improving Trauma System Preparedness for Disasters and Public Health Emergencies</b>	Evaluate the role of the trauma system and trauma centers in the preparedness and response to disasters and other public health emergencies.	Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on the human population.	Reilly and Markenson Chapter 3  Improving Trauma Systems Preparedness for Disasters	N/A	Week 2 Forum: Your local trauma system and disaster preparedness

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		Understand strategies to integrate better trauma systems and trauma centers in the emergency management and public health emergency response system	Demonstrate planning principles used during a disaster response, planning and coordination.	and Public Health Emergencies		
		Examine the challenges for trauma systems in the United States to support disasters and public health preparedness				
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Course Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
3	Developing the Hospital Emergency Plan  Exercise Plan  Integration with Local and Community Resources	Evaluate how healthcare institutions and their state and local health departments, first responder agencies  Distinguish between the different types of drills and/or exercises and the requirements that mandate that hospitals and medical centers conduct drills and	Demonstrate planning principles used during a disaster response, planning and coordination.	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 3 and 4	N/A	Week 3 Forum: Universal Exercise Scenarios for Hospitals

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		exercises.  Examine the key elements of a hospital emergency management plan				
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Course Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
4	Hospital Workforce Issues  Education and Training	Evaluate effective methods to educate adult learners in topics of emergency management  Assess education and training requirements for various types of healthcare facilities  Understand the appropriate implementation of classroom, online, or hybrid learning methodologies to specific healthcare personnel and facilities.	Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on the human population.  Assess the emergency management response and healthcare issues associated with a natural disaster.  Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.	Reilly and Markenson: Chapters 8	<b>Short Paper on Natural Disasters and Emergency Management</b>	Week 4 Forum: Education and Training in Emergency Management
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Course Learning	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)

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			<b>Objectives</b>			
5	Credentialing and management of volunteer health professionals	<p>Assess the linkages between the hospital and the local public health system in all hazards planning.</p> <p>Evaluate the importance of a fully integrated emergency preparation plan that includes all stakeholders within the local public health system.</p> <p>Differentiate between the strategies for managing volunteers during all phases of an emergency or public health threat.</p>	<p>Demonstrate planning principles used during a disaster response, planning and coordination.</p> <p>Assess the emergency management response and healthcare issues associated with a natural disaster.</p> <p>Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.</p>	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 10	N/A	Week 5 Forum: Successful Partners and Emergency Preparedness
<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Learning Goals</b>	<b>Course Learning Objectives</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>	<b>Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Forum(s)</b>
6	<p>Risk Communication and Media Relations</p> <p>Quantitative</p>	Understand why emergency response to logistics systems need improvement.	Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 11 and 12	N/A	Week 6 Forum: Communication and Disaster Management

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Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Course Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
	<p>Planning for Epidemic and Disaster Responses</p> <p>Logistics and Supply Chain Considerations</p>	<p>Identify the principles for improved disaster supply chain management for healthcare facilities</p> <p>Understand the media activities during the phases of a disaster.</p>	<p>the human population.</p> <p>Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.</p>			
7	<p>Hospital decontamination and Worker Survey</p> <p>Security and Physical Infrastructure Protections</p>	<p>Examine the elements of a comprehensive hospital decontamination program.</p> <p>Understand the meaning of decontamination and the reasons for performing hazardous substance operations</p> <p>Examine the equipment and personnel resources needed to conduct effective hospital decontamination</p>	<p>Analyze the general concepts of disaster medicine and the effects they have on the human population.</p> <p>Assess the emergency management response and healthcare issues associated with a natural disaster.</p> <p>Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in</p>	<p>Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 13 and 14</p>	<p>Final Paper: Emergency Management in Healthcare Issues</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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		operations.  Demonstrate an understanding of the barriers to healthcare facility security and potential solutions to the protection of patients, staff and visitors.	response to disaster medicine.			
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Course Learning Objectives	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
8	Principles of Disaster Triage	Assess existing field triage schemes.  Evaluate the SALT triage method and lifesaving interventions.  Differentiate practical critiquing real life disaster scenarios and emergency management.  Evaluate emergency management-oriented public health research articles for a	Assess the emergency management response and healthcare issues associated with a natural disaster.  Appraise methods of education, training and research to be utilized in response to disaster medicine.	Reilly and Markenson, Chapters 17 and 18	N/A	Week 8 Forum: National Guidelines for Mass Casualty Triage

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		understanding of disaster triage				
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## Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)