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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Health Sciences
PBHE606
Disaster Health Management
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 focuses on the principles, types, and forms of health management systems that exist to serve public needs during society's most threatening crises. Topics range from international and national political and policy views of disaster health management down to local levels where leading hospitals and emergency managers must respond to public health disasters on a daily basis.

Course Scope

This course extends the student's horizon beyond the confines of different levels of emergency disaster management. This course considers all levels of government involved in responding to natural disasters and an overall view of past disasters and what we have learned from them. The purpose and scope of this course is to describe the fundamental attributes of the disaster health management system and to provide the student with the analytical tools to comprehend and explain how the system works. 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

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critical thinking skills. Students 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:

- Assess prevention and control measures associated with disasters.
- Analyze the use of Epidemiologic methods in disasters.
- Demonstrate health care issues that confront emergency management decision makers.
- Assess health care issues that confront emergency management decision makers.
- Appraise concepts associated with the necessary abilities to enter and contribute to the growing public health and/or emergency management professions.

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:

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, 6th 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.

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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 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

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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 Function Roles of Hospital Workers in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies

Terrorist use of a radiological dispersal device (RDD, or “dirty bomb”), which combines a conventional explosive device with radiological materials, is among the National Planning Scenarios of the United States government. Understanding the health care employee willingness to respond is critical for planning experts. Previous research has demonstrated that perception of threat and efficacy is key in the assessing willingness to respond to a disasters and emergency scenarios.

You will define how hospital workers function during an emergency and disaster scenarios. What are some of the risks to healthcare workers? Does your community have a shortage of hospital workers or lack surge capacity? You should also include an analysis of your local community’s capabilities.

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 and hospital workers function during emergency and disasters from your textbook and/or various sources first.

Step 2: You are going to pick an recent (last 3 years) peer-reviewed article that utilized hospital workers and/or healthcare incident management systems during a recent emergency or disaster (i.e., natural or man-made).

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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 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.

Week 4: Community Assets and Disaster Management

One of the major challenges during the initial phase of a disaster is integrating the public health and emergency management assets. Your assignment is to assess how your community emergency medical services organizations, medical treatment facilities (i.e., hospitals, clinics, stand-alone ERs) and public health assets plan to work together to mitigate the loss of life during a disaster scenario. Have the new facilities of stand-alone ERs and urgency care centers been incorporated into your community's overall surge capacity?

Be sure to 1) identify a potential disaster likely to impact your community or region, 2) evaluate available trauma assets, emergency management services, hospitals, clinics, etc, 3) visit websites, research other resources, contact hospital managers, etc to determine the potential level of preparedness. Importantly, research the hospital and other parts of the healthcare systems role in responding to a particular disaster.

Your paper must be at least 5 pages (body) 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 included in the Lessons. Avoid use of secondary sources like non-scholarly websites or textbooks.
- The paper must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins in 12-point Times New Roman font with all references properly cited.

Week 7: Final paper on Disaster Health Management

An important component of this course is the final paper. You will draft a county-level disaster and public health policy plan. Research the disaster management plan and policy in your area and develop a new policy to address a novel or emerging threat to your community.

Your paper should address the following areas
[PBHE606] Syllabus
April, 2016

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- 1) Partnership with state and federal agencies
- 2) Disaster management cycle
- 3) Public health and hospital assets
- 4) Volunteer utilization plan and strategy
- 5) Emergency Operation Plan
- 6) Logistics
- 7) Any other relevant areas that you need to discuss in developing your plan. You must have a clearly stated vision, objective, and mission for your plan.

- 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	25%
Introductory Forum Post	10 pts	
Week 1 Writing Assignment (100 points)		10%
Week 4 Writing Assignment (100 points)		25%
Week 7 Research Paper (100 points)		40%
TOTAL:	1110 pts	100%

Course Outline

Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
1	Functional roles of hospital workers in Disasters and	Understand the needs for and responsibilities for workers in disasters	Reilly and Markenson Chapter 9	Understanding Function Roles of Hospital Workers in	Week 1 Forums: -Introduction -Functional roles of hospital

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	Public Health Emergencies	Examine the role of the hospital workers in disasters Evaluate the activities performed by healthcare workers during disasters		Disasters and Public Health Emergencies	workers in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
2	Improving Trauma System Preparedness for Disasters and Public Health Emergencies	Evaluate the role of the trauma system and trauma centers in the preparedness and response to disasters and other public health emergencies. Understand strategies to integrate better trauma systems and trauma centers in the emergency management and public health emergency response system Examine the challenges for trauma systems in the United States to support disasters and public health preparedness	Reilly and Markenson Chapters 3 Improving Trauma Systems Preparedness for Disasters and Public Health Emergencies	N/A	Week 2 Forum: Your local trauma system and disaster preparedness
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
3	Developing the Disaster Triage	Assess existing field triage	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 17	N/A	Week 3 Forum: National Guidelines for

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	Principles of Disaster Triage	<p>schemes.</p> <p>Evaluate the SALT triage method and lifesaving interventions.</p> <p>Differentiate practical critiquing real life disaster scenarios and emergency management.</p> <p>Evaluate emergency management-oriented public health research articles for a understanding of disaster triage</p>			Mass Casualty Triage
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
4	Vulnerable Populations and Public Health Disaster Preparedness	<p>Evaluate effective methods to protect vulnerable populations</p> <p>Assess education and training requirements for public health preparedness</p> <p>Understand the appropriate implementation of</p>	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 19	Short Paper on Emergency Management and the Principles of Disaster Triage	Week 4 Forum: Vulnerable Populations and Public Health Disaster Preparedness

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Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
		disaster preparedness guidelines and plans			
5	Altered Standards of Care in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies	Assess Standards of care in disasters and public health emergencies Evaluate the importance of standards of care in disasters Differentiate between the strategies for vulnerable populations and public health preparedness	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 20	N/A	Week 5 Forum: Altered Standards of Care in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
6	Mass Fatality Management	Understand why mass fatality management need improvement. Identify the principles for improved disaster and mass fatality management Understand the media activities during mass fatality management	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 21	N/A	Week 6 Forum: Mass Fatality Management
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
7	Hospital decontamination	Examine the elements of a	Reilly and Markenson: Chapter 13 and 14	Final paper: Disaster	Week 7 Forum: Hospital

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	and Worker Survey Security and Physical Infrastructure Protections	comprehensive hospital decontamination program. Understand the meaning of decontamination and the reasons for performing hazardous substance operations Examine the equipment and personnel resources needed to conduct effective hospital decontamination operations. Demonstrate an understanding of the barriers to healthcare facility security and potential solutions to the protection of patients, staff and visitors.		Health Management	Decontamination and Infrastructure Protections during Disasters
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
8	Research in Emergency and Disaster	Assess existing research in emergency and	Reilly and Markenson, Chapter 22	N/A	Week 8 Forum: Research in Emergency and

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	Medicine	disaster medicine Evaluate research on triage method and lifesaving interventions. Differentiate clinical practice guidelines			Disaster Medicine
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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](#)