**PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**EM 203: Principles and Practices of Disaster Response I**

Spring Term 2009 Inst: Louis W. Bruneau, MBA, EMT-B

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**Text**

McEntire, David A., **Disaster Response and Recovery**, First Edition, Hoboken, NJ, John Wiley & Sons, (2007).

**Course Description**

This course uncovers the principles that promote effective disaster response practices in operations and management. It examines the nature of disasters, the context of response operations and the roles and responsibilities of various individuals and organizations. The course reviews the popular myths and realities of human behavior in catastrophic events as well as the divergent approaches to disaster response operations (e.g. command and control vs. networking/problem solving). The importance of providing an effective response for the affected population will be discussed and will include a variety of important functions e.g. implementing the emergency operations plan, warning, evacuation, search and rescue, emergency medical care/mass casualties, mass fatalities, sheltering and mass care, donations management, damage assessment, the disaster declaration process, media relations/public information, individual and public assistance, and critical incident stress management.

**Intended Course Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) Discuss response operations from a historic perspective.

2) Discuss and apply the different theories of response operations.

3) Identify best practices, common mistakes and application of various response strategies.

4) Develop critical thinking and analytical skills as they apply to response operations.

**Teaching Methodology**

Teaching methodology will include lectures, group discussions of questions from the text, FEMA independent study courses and a case analysis.

**Course Requirements**

**1) Reading of assigned chapters** as indicated by the “Schedule and Assignments” section, prior to class, in preparation for class discussion.

**2) Two exams:** There will be two exams; both will have true/false, multiple choice, fill-in the blank and short essay questions. The first exam will have 70 questions (for 210 points); the second will have 60 questions (for 180 points). The exams will be available only to students who are in class when the exam is handed out.

Students may take a make-up exam only with prior approval from the instructor. The instructor will only approve a make-up exam if he believes that a substantial reason has been given.

Tests that are not made up will be given zero points and will be factored into the final grade for the course.

Exam success is critical to demonstrating mastery of the course content. Failure to pass one of the exams (score less than 50% of the available points) will result in the grade, indicated by the points total, being reduced by one level. Failure to pass both exams will result in a failure to pass the course, regardless of the points earned.

**3) FEMA Independent Study Program Courses:** Fourof the courses available from the Federal Emergence Management Administration website will be required as a part of this course. The courses are: IS-244 “Developing and Managing Volunteers”, and IS-288 “The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management”, IS-700 “National Incident Management System (NIMS) an Introduction”, IS-800B “National Response Framework”. Site information will be available with this syllabus. Due dates are shown on the class schedule.

**4) Case Study:** Read the case study and answer the questions at the end of the case. Due date is shown on the class schedule. **Late submission will not be accepted.**

**5) Participation:** Students are expected to participate in ALL class sessions. Preparation for such participation will necessarily involve having read assigned chapters and preparing answers to the chapter questions prior to each class session. The variety and interest in this class will come from discussions of current events as related to thecourse. Students are asked to try to find and bring related newspaper, magazine or internet articles each week to discuss in class.

**6)** An **attendance** sign-in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class session. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO SIGN IN WHEN HE/SHE ARRIVES AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. Without a signature on the sign-in sheet, the class record will show an absence for that entire class session. The sign-in sheet will passed around again in the forth hour of class for your initials. Without initials on the sign-in sheet, the class record will show you missed half the class. No absences will be “excused”.

**Missed classes:**

Second class missed: grade not affected.

Third class missed: grade reduced one level from earned grade (for example, if the earned grade were A, that grade would be translated to B).

Fourth class missed: grade reduced one more level.

Fifth class missed: A grade of “F” is assigned regardless of the grade earned. This is considered failure to meet minimum expectations of college level performance.

**Grading**

Performance in this course will be assessed on the basis of the following point allocation:

1. Two written exams, a total of 130 questions 390 points

2. Four FEMA IS courses @ 50 pts each 200 points

3. One case study @ 100 pts 100 points

Total: 690 points

Point total = Grade:

A = 690 - 621 pts B = 620 - 517 pts C = 516 - 415 pts D = 414 - 345 pts F = 344 or less (Top 10%) (Next 15%) (Next 15%) (Next 10%) (Last 50%)

**Changes to Course Outline**

This course may be added to, deleted from, or otherwise changed if, in the opinion of the Instructor, it is necessary to do so in order to achieve the objectives of this course. The student will be notified in advance, in class, of such changes. Students will be responsible for any actions such changes may require of them.

**ADA Accommodation** Any student who may need an accommodation for any sort of disability should make an appointment to see me within the first two weeks of class.

**Academic Honesty**

Your attention is directed to the PCC Student Rights and Responsibilities document on the college web-site; it presents the “Code of Conduct” and the “Academic Integrity Policy” of the college.

Failure to demonstrate honesty and integrity in testing situations will result in an academic penalty which will involve a failing grade for this course.

Regarding written assignments (i.e., case studies, and the Business Plan), it is unacceptable to submit a paper with the text of another source represented as your own work. If you wish to quote from another source, you **must** indicate that it is a quotation, and not your own statement. **Plagiarism** of any type is considered to be **academic dishonesty,** which will result in disqualification of the paper, and a grade of “F” for that assignment and possibly a one grade level reduction in your final grade.

All violations of the “Code of Conduct” will result in an “Academic Dishonesty Report” being filed with the Division Office, the Dean of Student Development and the Dean of Instruction.

**Student Initiated Drops and Withdraws**

PCC guidelines for drops and withdraws (page 8 of current PCC Schedule.)

This is an eleven week course, therefore:

Withdrawal refund period: by the end of second Friday of the term.

To withdraw and not receive an “F” grade: through the fourth week of the class.

If you stop attending without formally withdrawing, you will receive the grade assigned by your Instructor, and will be held liable for all charges on your account.

**Emergency Management 203**

**Schedule and Assignments**

Mar. 30, 2009 Welcome, Introductions, Hand Outs, Review Syllabus, Discuss Expectations,

Apr. 6 Chapter 1, Knowing What to Expect: Hazards and Disasters

Chapter 2, Understanding the Actors: Roles and Responsibilities of Disaster Participants

Apr. 13 Chapter 3, Anticipating Human Behavior in Disasters: Myths, Exaggerations and Realities

Chapter 4, Approaching Response and Recovery Operations: Alternative Management Theories

Apr. 20 Chapter 5, Responding with Initial Measures: Hazard Detection, Warning, Evacuation and Sheltering

Chapter 6, Caring for the Injured, Dead and Distraught: Overcoming Physical and Emotional Impacts

Apr. 27 Chapter 7, Managing Public Relations, Donations and Volunteers: Expected Challenges and Benefits

*Review for Exam #1*

May 4 **Exam #1 (Chapters 1-7)**

May 11 *Feedback on Exam #1 (Chapters 1-7)*

Chapter 8, Moving Beyond Immediate Needs: Damage Assessment, Disaster Declarations and Debris Removal

Chapter 9, Promoting Recovery and Mitigation: Disaster Assistance and Vulnerability Reduction

May 18 Chapter 10, Overcoming Typical Challenges: Other Anticipated Problems After Disaster

Chapter 11, Harnessing Technology and Organization: Tools for Local, State, and Federal Governments

**Case Study paper due**

May 25 Day off – Memorial Day

Jun. 1 *Feedback on Case Study*

Chapter 12, Dealing with Future Disasters: Prior Lessons, New Threats and Rising Vulnerability

Chapter 13, Promoting Disaster Resilience: Preparedness, Improvisation, Professionalism and Leadership

*Review for Exam #2*

Jun. 8 **IS-244 Developing and Managing Volunteers**

**IS-288 The Role of Volunteer Agencies in Emergency Management**

**IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) an Introduction**

**IS-800B National Response Framework**

**Exam #2 (Chapters 8-13)**