

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
(DISASTER AND MENTAL HEALTH
INSTITUTE)**

PSYC 756

Gerard A. Jacobs, Ph.D.

Syllabus

PSYC 756

Disaster Mental Health

Instructor: Dr. Jacobs

Office: SDU 116

Office Hours: By appt.

Phone: 677-6575

Required Course Materials: ARC 3066A, ARC 3077-1, Freedy & Hobfoll

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
1/14	ARC Introduction to Disaster	3066A
1/21	Continue Introduction to Disaster	
1/28	ARC DMHS-1 Part 1	3077
2/4	ARC DMHS-1 Part 2	3077
2/11	ARC DMHS-1 Part 3	3077
2/18	ARC DMHS-1 Part 4	3077
2/25	ARC DMHS-1 Part 5	3077
3/4	Spring Break -- No Class	
3/11	ARC DMHS-1 Part 6	3077
3/18	ARC DMHS-1 Part 7	3077
3/25	ARC DMHS-1 Part 8 -- if necessary	3077
4/1	Historical Perspective	Handouts, Chaps 1 & 3
4/8	Preparation of a DMH Plan	Handouts, Chaps 5, 7, 9
4/15	Management of Rural & Small Scale Responses	Handouts, Chaps 10, 12

4/22	Management of Large Scale Responses	Handouts, Chap 14
4/29	Mass Casualty Incidents, Prolonged Disaster Responses	Handouts
5/6	International Disaster Mental Health Work on Plan, Summary and Conclusions	Chap 15

NOTE WELL: Final Project Due In Vermillion on 5/6.

The timing of topics in this course and the topics themselves may be altered due to Dr. Jacobs' disaster work. He is currently involved with the development of the national aviation disaster plan, and is on alert status to respond within two hours to any aviation disaster involving significant loss of life as determined by the National Transportation Safety Board. Other topics which may be offered include Community Interventions, Cross-cultural issues in disaster mental health, etc.

GRADES & EXAMS

Attendance. (30%) The issue of attendance relates to three different criteria: 1) The American Red Cross (ARC) will only allow a student to miss one hour of the ARC courses in order to receive certification for DMHS; 2) The American Psychological Association (APA) does not permit a student to miss any of the ARC course in order to gain the free APA credits; 3) Attendance will be one factor in the consideration of the grade for the course. I expect that graduate students will attend all class periods and will let me know in advance whenever possible of the need for an excused absence.

Participation. (30%) There will be a number of exercises during the course. Everyone will be expected to participate in at least some of the exercises. In addition, comments and questions are expected from everyone. This course is made up of budding and experienced mental health professionals. The insight and knowledge of all needs to be shared as time allows. The ARC section of the course is relatively regulated, but even that provides for discussion time.

Major Product. (40%) There will be no exams and only one major product for the course. In an effort to have a meaningful exercise for each participant, I am asking that each of you prepare a disaster mental health plan for your community. This would involve assessing potential disasters in your community, the number of victims likely to result, and the mental health resources available for a response. The latter half of the course will specifically address some of the issues which need to be examined in the preparation of such a plan. You will be expected to determine existing plans for your community. Students may form groups to work collaboratively on this project. This would be preferred if you are planning to prepare your plan for the same community at least in terms of contact with community officials, so that they are not buried with what they may well perceive as nuisance requests.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

I would welcome it if people from the same community or region wished to work together, collaborating to produce a more effective plan. Nevertheless, anyone found to be cheating in any manner, or who is guilty of academic misconduct (e.g., misrepresenting attendance or participation), will be assigned a grade of “F” for the course, not merely for the project involving the misconduct. See the University of South Dakota student handbook for further definitions of academic misconduct.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETE GRADES

A grade of “incomplete” will only be granted in unusual situations. If you feel you need an extension of the course deadlines, submit your request in writing to Dr. Jacobs.

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Professor, *Clinical Psychology Training Program*

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Brief Disaster Resume
Full Resume

Spring Semester 97 Courses:

PSYC 756 Disaster Mental Health
PSYC 764 Personality Theory

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