

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

**Course Title:** Current Topics in Emergency Management: International Disasters

**Course Number:** EMHS:490-001

**Course Credits:** Three (3)

**Prerequisites:** 2235:305 & 350

**Course Description:**

The course examines international disasters from the four-phase approach to modern disaster management and utilizes numerous international case studies for analysis and application of key disaster management principles. The course also provides an understanding of the roles played by key U.S. government, foreign government, and non-government organizations, as well as multilateral organizations who respond to international disasters.

**Program Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Briefly discuss the history of international disasters and identify key events in the evolution of international disaster management;
- 2) Identify key disaster management organizations and their responsibilities at the government, non-government, and multilateral level, in the United States and overseas;
- 3) Apply the four-phase approach to actual international disaster case studies in order to evaluate the response effectiveness;
- 4) Discuss how a country's or a region's unique cultural, economic, and political characteristics can influence international emergency operations.

**Program Assessment**

The University of Akron and specifically the Emergency Management and Homeland Security program assesses student learning at several levels. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Grades and work samples may be selected to gather learning outcome data to be measured and tracked over several years. Student names or indicators are not used in data analysis. Students have an active role in course and program assessment projects. Generated data will direct any changes made in the curriculum which is designed to strengthen and constantly improve student learning and educational outcomes.

## Course outline

**Topic 1:** What is International Disaster Management?

**Topic 2:** What are the international hazards that possess catastrophic potential?

**Topic 3:** What is the relationship between risk and vulnerability in various world regions?

**Topic 4:** Vulnerability Assessments

**Topic 5:** Presentation of Vulnerability Assessments

**Topic 6:** Key Players in International Disaster Management (governments and UN)

**Topic 7:** Key Players in International Disaster Management (NGOs and other organizations)

**Topic 8:** Disasters in ASIA presentations

**Topic 9:** Disasters in AFRICA presentations

**Topic 10:** Disasters in EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

**Topic 11:** Disasters in LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Topic 12:** Future Issues in International Disaster Management

## GRADING SCALE:

Grade	Percent Required
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

## Special Accommodations:

If there are special circumstances which affect your learning in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. Accommodations can be arranged through the Office of Accessibility, located in Simmons Hall, 105 (972-7928).