This course focuses on the evolution of U.S. disaster policy and the practice of emergency management, with particular attention to the roles of local governments and nonprofit agencies in disaster management. The course examines the major policy issues, including the utility of the “all-hazard” or comprehensive model of emergency management, the role of the military in disaster operations, state and local capacity building, and the design and implementation of hazard mitigation policies and programs. Lessons are drawn from major disasters ranging from the attacks on the World Trade Center towers and Pentagon in 2001 to the 2010 earthquakes in Haiti and Chile to the tornado outbreaks and Hurricane Sandy disasters in 2012, as well as the threats posed by climate change and space weather.

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**Required Textbooks:**


**Suggested readings for more information (available in library or from instructor):**


Robert A. Stallings, ed., Methods of Disaster Research (Xlibris, 2002).


Selected Journals:
The Australian Journal of Emergency Management
Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal (UK)
Disaster Recovery Journal (for Business Continuity Planners)
Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management
Environmental Hazards: Human and Policy Dimensions
Homeland Protection Professional
International Journal of Emergency Management
International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters (International Research Committee on Disasters, International Sociological Association)
Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management (The Netherlands)
Journal of Emergency Management
Journal of Emergency Services (UK)
The Liaison (for Civil-Military Humanitarian Relief Collaboration) (Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Hawaii)
Natural Hazards: An International Journal of Hazards Research & Prevention
Natural Hazards Review (Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado)

Students are also encouraged to use Internet information sources and a listing of websites will be provided. Students may subscribe to discussion lists for a variety of
disaster organizations and related professions and receive email notification of major
earthquakes and other disasters, federal disaster relief announcements, job
announcements, research opportunities, and other relevant professional news from the
field. The United Nations conducts Internet conferences periodically and information is
also available in English on emergency management programs and activities in Canada,
Australia, Japan, and other nations. The Emergency Information Infrastructure
Partnership (EIIP) has weekly Internet workshops, as well.

Students should become familiar with the following sites:

- **www.fema.gov** - for basic information on the federal emergency management
  system, reports, legal documents, training and planning documents, and status
  reports on disasters, as well as links to state and local emergency management
  agencies (including a link to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency) and
to nongovernmental partners.

- **training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/** - for information on the FEMA Higher
  Education project, including prototype courses on emergency management
  topics, degree and certificate programs around the US and elsewhere,
  conference papers, etc. Provides entire courses on topics ranging from
  wholistic disaster recovery to terrorism complete with PowerPoint presentations.

- **www.dhs.gov** - for basic information on the Department of Homeland Security,
  including FEMA, and its constituent agencies and directorates.

- **www.iaem.com** - for information on the International Association of Emergency
  Managers, job listings, commentary on current policy issues.

- **www.emaponline.org** – information on the Emergency Management
  Accreditation Program (EMAP) that sets standards for and accredits state and
  local emergency management programs. Standards will be posted on course
  homepage.

- **www.colorado.edu/hazards** - for information regarding specific hazards, full
  texts of some of the Natural Hazards Center’s series of working papers and
  quick response reports for recent disasters, and other information sources.

- **www.drc.udel.edu** - for applied social science research related to disasters, full
  texts of some of the Disaster Research Center’s publications, including reports
  to FEMA and other government agencies.

- **www.InterAction.org** – for information on international disaster relief
  organizations, including job opportunities.
- **www.nvoad.org** – for information on the National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, a US umbrella organization for nongovernmental disaster organizations.

- **www.emforum.org** - Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) forum. Holds Internet workshops on a broad range of emergency management issues and maintains an archive of transcripts. Tune in online for Wednesday noon programs.

More websites will be suggested in the class discussions and readings.

**Course Requirements:**

This is a graduate course, therefore class participation is essential and will represent a significant percentage of the final grade. There will be two examinations, a midterm and a final, and a research project. There will also be online discussions, supplemental readings, case analyses, and other class activities that will require regular attendance and participation.

The research project should focus on an emergency management issue or function, such as alert and warning systems or dealing with special populations (such as the elderly, children, pets, people with disabilities, and people with chronic health conditions), or on a specific hazard or disaster (such as landslides or a major hurricane or a terrorist attack). Students should survey the literature (library and Internet), assess the state of knowledge about the issue, function, hazard, or disaster and provide an analysis that identifies information needs, lessons learned, and/or other concerns for emergency managers, policymakers, and communities at risk. There is a wealth of information free on the websites listed above. Papers should be 15-20 pages in length and students should be prepared to provide a 5-8 minute overview in class at the end of the semester. Joint projects can be arranged with the instructor and all topics should be cleared to make sure that they are acceptable.

**Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to**

1. Understand the evolution of disaster policy and the practice of emergency management in the US and elsewhere.

2. Understand the roles of local governments and nonprofit agencies in disaster management, the development of emergency management standards, and the professionalization of the field.

3. Discuss major policy issues including the comprehensive model of emergency management, the role of the military in disaster operations, state and local capacity building, and the design and implementation of disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation policies and programs.
Grading:  
- Midterm Exam 30%  
- Final Exam 30%  
- Research Project 30%  
- Participation 10%  

100% = Course grade

NOTE: Students should be familiar with university policies regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. See the Policy on Academic Honesty (section 409 in the Faculty Handbook). The Faculty Handbook can be found at http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/fhb.html.

Advising:

Office: 337 Andrew Young School Building, corner of Peachtree and Marietta  
Office Hours: 4:30-6:00 pm, Mondays and by appointment.  
Telephone: 404.413.0119 – office and voice mail  
Email: wwaugh@gsu.edu

Tentative List of Topics and In-class Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Activities</th>
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| August 24  | Introduction - from asteroid strikes and gamma rays to volcanoes      | Sylves, Chapter 1  
Visit FEMA website – tour library and resources  
Disaster Timeline – See Rubin citation - note the links between specific  
events and disaster policy documents (legislation, plans, strategies,  
presidential decisions, etc.)  
DVD on Hurricane Katrina  
Introduction to the practice of emergency management – The Principles  
of Emergency Management and the EMAP and NFPA 1600 standards  
Introduction to emergency management standards – EMAP 2013 and  
NFPA 1600 (2013)  
Introduction to ICS and NIMS  
Discussion of publishing in the field of emergency management |
| August 31  | Disaster Management and Public Policy                                  | Sylves, Chapters 2-3                                     |
| September 7| LABOR DAY HOLIDAY                                                      |                                                          |
| September 14| Organizing for Emergency Management and the Role of Science            | Sylves, Chapters 4-7  
Readings on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, National  
Emergency Management Network, etc. |
Reading on FEMA “Whole Community” Approach

September 21  Globalization of Disasters
    Sylves, Chapter 8

September 28  Recovery – From Victim Compensation to Disaster Relief
    Sylves, Chapter 9

October 5  Leadership and the Role of Emergency Management
    Sylves, Chapter 10
    Reading on collaborative leadership
    MIDTERM EXAMINATION MADE AVAILABLE

October 12  Exploring the Academic/Practitioner Divide
    Trainor et al., Chapters 1-2

October 19  Volunteers, Nonprofits, and For-Profits
    Trainor et al., Chapters 3-4

October 26  Functional Needs and Public Health Preparedness
    Trainor et al., Chapters 5-6
    MIDTERM DUE
    Help sessions on research projects if needed

November 7  Planning and Improvisation
    Trainor et al., Chapters 7-8

November 14  Long-Term Recovery
    Trainor et al., Chapter 9

November 21  After-Action Reports and Social Media
    Trainor et al., Chapters 10-11
    Final Examination made available

November 28-December 1  THANKS GIVING HOLIDAY

December 9  Professionalization and the Future of Emergency Management
    Trainor et al., Chapters 13-14

December 14  FINAL EXAM AND PAPERS DUE BY MIDNIGHT

NOTE: The class schedule is subject to change. Students are responsible for all changes announced in class and communicated via Desire2Learn course webpage.