
HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE in Fall 2020 (GR5002)

Course Code	GR5002	Professor(s)	Sean Casey
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	N/A
Class Schedule	S: 12:00-18:00 in Q-704 T: 18:00-22:00 in Q-704 WRF: 19:00-22:00 in Q-704	Office Hours	N/A
Credits	2	Email	scasey@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	N/A

Course Description

MODULE DESCRIPTION:

This module provides an introduction to international humanitarian action, with a focus on health emergency

preparedness and response. While addressing the principles and international legal frameworks that guide global

humanitarian work, the module will focus on the operational elements of international humanitarian response with

a focus on health in emergencies: emergency preparedness/disaster risk reduction, rapid post-disaster needs

assessments, inter-agency coordination in response, emergency program design and implementation, humanitarian

financing, emergency operations/logistics and donor engagement/compliance. Assigned readings, online learning

and lecture/discussion content will be applied through practical exercises during the module. Given the current

COVID-19 pandemic, this module will draw heavily from real-world examples of outbreak response and the

humanitarian consequences of the pandemic.

This module will include:

- Building A Better Response - an online learning component (6-8 hours of work before the module begins)

with a focus on disasters/humanitarian crises, covering relevant legal frameworks, an overview of

humanitarian principles, and introductions to key actors and mechanisms in humanitarian response;

- An introduction to humanitarian needs assessments and response planning processes;

-
- Discussions on humanitarian financing and how national responders, UN agencies and NGOs are funded in emergency response;
 - Discussions on the health emergencies, including disasters with significant health consequences, outbreaks and the current COVID-19 pandemic – including response efforts and humanitarian consequences, drawing on real-world national response efforts.
 - Overviews of key humanitarian sectors and how they interact, including: health, nutrition/food security, water/sanitation/hygiene (WASH), protection, and shelter – including response planning simulations;
 - Overviews of the non-technical elements of humanitarian action that most humanitarian responders are forced to learn on the job – finance/accounting, HR management, security, procurement/logistics, advocacy/communications, representation and host-country coordination.
 - A group emergency response exercise simulation, consolidating learning and applying new skills to realworld situations.

Course Learning Outcomes

GRADUATE PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon completing this module, students will have a foundational understanding of humanitarian action in man-made and natural disasters and other emergencies, and they will develop real-world skills in emergency response work.

General Education

SKILL/ COMPETENCY ACQUISITION

- Rapid needs assessment
- Initial humanitarian response planning and coordination
- Application of humanitarian principles and standards
- Humanitarian operations support and logistics

Course Outline

COURSE SCHEDULE

PRE-COURSE WORK

*Before the start of the course, all students should have completed the “Building a Better Response” online training

– www.buildingabetterresponse.org. This online module contains critical content for the course – failure to complete

it will affect the final grade.

*Students must come to class with awareness of what is happening in the world today – where crises are occurring,

who is involved, and why they’re happening. Students should read the news on a daily basis leading up to the module

and should be able to speak about current global affairs. We will discuss recent/current health/humanitarian

emergencies, including: COVID-19, Ebola/Measles in the DRC, the Beirut explosion, 2019 cyclones in

Mozambique, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and conflicts in Yemen and Syria, among others. A useful onestop

source on humanitarian emergencies (including employment and training opportunities in the humanitarian

sector) is <https://reliefweb.int/>. Students may also wish to consult the WHO Health Emergencies listing of current

health emergencies (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/en/>), Disease Outbreak News

(<https://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>), COVID-19 homepage

([https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-2019)

2019) and COVID-19 Dashboard (<https://covid19.who.int>).

DAY ONE – TUESDAY – 18:00-22:00 – Introductions & Humanitarian Fundamentals

Introductions & Course Overview

- Introductions

- Plan for the course, expectations, overview of various exercises and grading.

Humanitarian Fundamentals

- Types of emergencies, where they are happening, and how humanitarian actors engage

- Trends in humanitarian response – principles, geopolitics, funding, partnerships & the Grand Bargain

- What are health emergencies or humanitarian emergencies with significant health consequences

- Who is involved – governments (Ministries, NDMOs), UN agencies, NGOs, (international and local), private sector, etc.

- Program and support operations

- Humanitarian/beneficiary accountability

- Case studies – conflicts, natural disasters, outbreaks and protracted/complex emergencies

Reading:

- “Building a Better Response” module: <https://www.buildingabetterresponse.org>

-
- <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain>

DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY – 19:00-22:00 – The COVID-19 Pandemic & Humanitarian Implications

COVID-19 Pandemic & Humanitarian Implications

- COVID-19 – reviewing the basics: emerging diseases and epidemiology 101
- Outbreak preparedness & response – prevention, detection, response, recovery
- COVID-19 response national case studies

Reading:

- COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>
- WHO COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Progress Report (1): [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-covid-19-preparedness-and-response-progress-report---1-](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-covid-19-preparedness-and-response-progress-report---1-february-to-30-june-2020)

february-to-30-june-2020

- WHO Operational planning guidance to support country preparedness and response: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/draft-operational-planning-guidance-for-un-country-teams>

DAY THREE – THURSDAY- 19:00-22:00 – Humanitarian Assessments & Standards

Rapid Multi-Sectoral Humanitarian Assessments

- Assessment methods, tools and team composition
- Opportunities and challenges related to rapid multi-sectoral assessments
- What comes next – response actions, sector-specific assessments/ops and ongoing analysis of needs
- Discussion of case studies – disaster response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Reading:

- Collection of Assessment Tools – to be provided ahead of class
- Standards for Humanitarian Action – Understanding and Applying Sphere
- Review standards by sector and discuss their application and monitoring;
 - Activity – planning minimum standards in humanitarian response

Reading:

- The Sphere Project (www.spherehandbook.org) – to be reviewed – not read cover-to-cover

DAY FOUR – FRIDAY – 19:00-22:00 – Humanitarian Response Operations

Rapid-Onset Emergencies/Disasters – Initial Actions

- Overview of first 72 hours after a rapid-onset emergency (i.e. natural disaster)
- Coordination – RDC, OSOCC, Virtual OSOCC and Government Coordination/Leadership
- Rapid assessments and initial response planning/coordination
- Critical health actions in natural disasters – Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), outbreak prevention and response, restoration of essential services

Humanitarian Field Operations

- Logistics & supply chain
- HR – recruitment, training/onboarding and field support (both local & expat)
- Field finance in humanitarian settings – budgeting, cash planning and management and pipeline management
- Security – assessments, risk mitigation, risk tolerance

GROUP PROJECT – Plan and document a rapid multi-sectoral assessment

- The class will be divided into groups, each representing a humanitarian agency. Each group will be given an

emergency scenario and initial situation reports. Each group must develop an assessment plan based on the scenario and plan initial response actions based on organizational capacity and budget allocated.

- Each team must submit an assessment/response plan and adapted assessment tool(s)

DAY FIVE – SATURDAY – 12:00-18:00 – Applying Learning – Emergency Simulation Exercise

GROUP PROJECT – Health Emergency Response Simulation Exercise

- All students will engage in a simulation of a humanitarian/outbreak response. Students will play a range of roles, including NGO staff, UN agencies, funders, and government officials. Each student will be assigned a specific role, and students will be graded based on individual and collective work. This scenario aims to be as realistic as possible (while carried out virtually), and all students are expected to actively engage!

Discussion, Wrap-Up, Comments, Questions, Evaluation.

Module Dates: 8-12 September 2020 (all times local Paris/CET):

- Tuesday, 8 Sep – 18:00-22:00
- Wednesday, 9 Sep – 19:00-22:00
- Thursday, 10 Sep – 19:00-22:00
- Friday, 11 Sep – 19:00-22:00
- Saturday, 12 Sep – 12:00-18:00

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in

case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to

be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department.

Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is

up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course.

An instructor

may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a

satisfactory level. Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and

especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

English Language Proficiency

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English

language mastery at the graduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral

presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as

part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student

evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific

academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's

academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing

general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

Grading:

- Participation (30%): Students are expected to read all required materials, to contribute thoughtfully

and intelligently to discussions, and to bring/reference outside materials that are relevant to class discussions. This mark will represent the student's effort in - and contribution to - the module. Students who are late, who miss class, who come unprepared, and/or who do not actively participate will be penalized on their final grade.

- Group Project – Rapid Assessment Planning Simulation (30%)
- Group Project – Emergency Response Simulation (40%)

Other
