

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

**COURSE NUMBER – COURSE NAME
EADM 307 – Legal Issues in Emergency and Disaster Management**

Created by: Dr. M. O'Connor

Updated by: Jay Roorbach

School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice

Department: Center for Criminal Justice, Intelligence, and Cybersecurity

Semester/Year: Fall 2020

- A. **TITLE:** Legal Issues in Emergency and Disaster Management
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** EADM 307
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** (Hours of Lecture, Laboratory, Recitation, Tutorial, Activity)

Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours: 3 per week
Lab Hours: per week
 Other: per week

Course Length: 15 Weeks

- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Yes No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** None: Yes: GER
If course satisfies more than one: GER
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall Spring Fall & Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides a general overview of the major legal and liability issues in emergency management. The focus is on the legal environment within which emergency managers operate, including their roles in rule-making, policy administration, and their potential personal legal liability for discretionary actions. Additional discussion of legal matters resulting from disasters and federal grant funding will enhance the course content.

- H. **PRE-REQUISITES:** None Yes If yes, list below:

Expository Writing (ENGL 101) or Oral & Written Expression (ENGL 102), and Risk and Hazard Impact Studies (EADM 205) or permission of instructor.

CO-REQUISITES: None Yes If yes, list below:

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: (see key below)

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<u>Course Student Learning Outcome</u> <u>[SLO]</u>	<u>Program Student Learning Outcome</u> <u>[PSLO]</u>	<u>GER</u> <u>[If Applicable]</u>	<u>ISLO & SUBSETS</u>	
Summarize the key provisions of the Disaster Relief Act of 1950, the Stafford Act, and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 fundamental to the field of U.S. emergency management.	Students will develop and maintain a comprehensive perspective of emergency and disaster management.		5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	None Subsets Subsets Subsets
Explain the role of State leadership in emergency management and disaster policy.	Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of the core concepts, theories, and doctrine related to emergency and disaster management.		5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	None Subsets Subsets Subsets
Explain the emergency management-related legislative obligations of mayors, city managers, county executives, emergency managers and local emergency planning committees.	Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of the core concepts, theories, and doctrine related to emergency and disaster management.		5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	None Subsets Subsets Subsets
Discuss the process by which Presidential Declarations of major disasters or emergencies are requested and reviewed.	Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of the core concepts, theories, and doctrine related to emergency and disaster management.		5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	None Subsets Subsets Subsets
Evaluate national flood mitigation, insurance, and disaster laws and policy and implementation at the Federal, State, and local levels.	Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of the core concepts, theories, and doctrine related to emergency and disaster management.		5-Ind, Prof, Disc, Know Skills ISLO ISLO	None Subsets Subsets Subsets
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KEY	Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

*Include program objectives if applicable. Please consult with Program Coordinator

J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** Yes No

If YES, select one or more of the following categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classroom/Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Engagement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internship | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Works/Senior Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practicum | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Learning | (program, class, project) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | |

K. **TEXTS:**

All materials provided to students.

L. **REFERENCES:**

None

M. **EQUIPMENT:** None Needed:

N. **GRADING METHOD:** A-F

O. **SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Discussion Boards
- Research Paper
- Participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. **OVERVIEW OF DISASTER LAWS**

- A. Early policy history of disaster including American relief efforts and assistance.
- B. Central features of the Civil Defense Act of 1950 and discuss its significance.
- C. Key provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988.
- D. Mitigation Act of 2000.
- E. 9/11 Terror Attack and key elements of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
- F. Hurricane Katrina catastrophe of 2005 and key elements of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.
- G. Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

II. **HAZARDS AND DISASTERS**

- A. Definitions of what disasters and emergencies are in official terms.
- B. Types of costs that disasters and emergencies impose on individuals, the Nation, State & local governments, and on society and how disasters and emergencies have been perceived by Americans over time.

- C. Environmental and social reasons for the increasing cost and frequency of emergencies and disasters.
- III. LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 - A. Responsibilities of elected officials whom emergency managers often interact with and to whom they are officially accountable.
 - B. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
 - C. Disaster and emergency management roles of volunteer organizations.
- IV. STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 - A. Purpose and general forms of organization of State emergency management agencies.
 - B. Role of Governors in emergency management and disaster policy.
 - C. Emergency management authority and responsibilities shouldered by local governments.
- V. DECLARATION PROCESS
 - A. What Presidential Declarations of Major Disaster and Emergency are and explain why they are significant in emergency management.
 - B. Processes and methods by which Presidential Declarations of major disasters or emergencies are requested and reviewed.
 - C. Roles and relationships among the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of FEMA.
- VI. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT
 - A. How FEMA and disaster policy and funding are at a disadvantage relative to other agencies and issues in the appropriations process.
 - B. Role that the insurance industry has as a special interest that often lobbies Congress.
 - C. How the Federal Government has attempted to improve its responsiveness to the public and its post-disaster needs.
 - D. Significance of business in disaster recovery efforts at the community level.
- VII. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
 - A. Missions of FEMA and political implications of FEMA's current policy of emphasizing mitigation measures.
 - B. Organizational structure of FEMA and key politically appointed leadership positions within FEMA.
 - C. Implications of FEMA's incorporation into the Department of Homeland Security in the years after the 9/11 terror attacks.
 - D. Overview of what the Post-Hurricane Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 means to FEMA's organization and management.
 - E. Purpose and implementation of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).
 - F. Fundamentals of the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.
 - G. Fundamentals of the Emergency Management Performance Grant program.
- Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None Yes