

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



**COURSE OUTLINE**

**JUST 355 – PUBLIC SAFETY CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE**

**Prepared By: Paul R. Bowdre**

**SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT  
MAY 2015**

- A. **TITLE:** Public Safety Critical Incident Response
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** JUST 355
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring/Fall
- G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:** 3 lecture hours per week
- H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** In this course students will study the many facets of critical incident response. The course addresses specific obstacles public safety professionals face while responding to a critical incident or disaster. The material contrasts the characteristics of a routine response to that of a large scale critical incident and requires the students to consider challenges that may not be common to a typical response situation. From initial response to recovery, students examine the actions a responder may take and the likely consequences of those actions. Students in this class also study the National Interagency Incident Management System and how it is applied in a critical incident.
- I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:**
- a. Pre-requisite(s): Completion of 45 semester credits or permission of the instructor  
b. Co-requisite(s): None
- J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):** By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<i>Course Objective</i>	<i>Institutional SLO</i>
1. Classify and explain the hazards associated with the response to a critical incident and explain their likely consequences.	1. Communications 3. Professional Competence
2. Determine the most common responders to a variety of critical incidents and articulate the role each may play in the responses.	3. Professional Competence
3. Explain the role of the media in the response to a critical incident and illustrate the best methods of managing the media and other public resources.	2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence
4. Explain the role of technology in today's response to critical incidents.	1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional

	Competence
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**K. TEXTS:**

McEntire, D. A. (2015). *Disaster response and recovery: Strategies and tactics for resilience* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NY: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

**L. REFERENCES:**

Kamien, D.G. (Ed.) (2012). *Homeland Security Handbook* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT Act) Act of 2001 [Public Law 107-56] and revisions and updates to federal statutes associated with the USA PATRIOT Act.

**M. EQUIPMENT:** Technology enhanced classroom

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

**O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:**

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Assignments
- Participation

**P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

I. Knowing What to Expect

- A. The Occurrence of Disasters
- B. Types of Hazards
- C. Technological Hazards
- D. Civil/Conflict Hazards
- E. The Complexity and Impact of Disasters

II. Understanding the Actors

- A. The Public Sector
- B. The Private Sector
- C. The Nonprofit Sector
- D. Citizen and Emergent Groups
- E. Working with Different Groups and the Whole Community

- III. Anticipating Human Behavior in Disasters
  - A. The Impact of Hollywood and The Media
  - B. Research on Myths
  - C. Evidence of Exaggeration
  - D. Realities about Response and Recovery
  - E. The Importance of Understanding Behavior Correctly
  
- IV. Recognizing Alternative Management Approaches
  - A. The Traditional Model
  - B. The Professional Model
  - C. Comparison of the Models
  
- V. Implementing Initial Response Measures
  - A. Hazard Detection
  - B. Issuing Warnings
  - C. Evacuation
  - D. Sheltering
  
- VI. Caring for the Injured, Dead, and Distraught
  - A. Search and Rescue Operations
  - B. Emergency Medical Care and Triage
  - C. Mass Fatality Management
  - D. Stress Management
  
- VII. Managing Public Information, Donations, and Volunteers
  - A. The Media and Disasters
  - B. Dealing with Donations
  - C. Volunteer Management
  
- VIII. Moving Beyond Immediate Needs
  - A. Assessing Damages
  - B. Challenges in Damage Assessment
  - C. Damage Assessment Procedures
  - D. Disaster Declarations
  - E. Debris Produced by Disasters
  - F. Dealing with Debris Effectively
  - G. Regulations and Other Considerations
  
- IX. Promoting Recovery and Mitigation

- A. Disaster Impacts and Disaster Assistance
  - B. Types of IA
  - C. Obtaining IA
  - D. Categories of PA
  - E. Obtaining PA
  - F. Important Issues for Recovery
  - G. The Potential for Disagreement
  - H. Pressing for Change
- X. Overcoming Typical Challenges
- A. Communications and Coordination
  - B. Decision Making
  - C. Transportation Issues and Logistics
  - D. Special Populations
  - E. Politics
  - F. Legal Concerns
  - G. Record Keeping
- XI. Harnessing Technology and Organization
- A. The Importance of Technology
  - B. Communication Equipment and Interoperability
  - C. Decision Support Systems (DSSs)
  - D. GIS
  - E. Managing Disasters at the Local Level
  - F. Managing Disasters at the State Level
  - G. Managing Disasters on a Federal Level
- XII. Foreseeing the Future
- A. Disasters on the Rise
  - B. Understanding Natural Disasters
  - C. Understanding Technological Disasters
  - D. Understanding Acts of Violence
  - E. Understanding Terrorism
  - F. Insufficiently Recognized Hazards
  - G. Increased Vulnerability
- XIII. Enhancing Disaster Resilience
- A. Preparing Your Community
  - B. Acquiring Financial Resources

- C. Establishing an EOC
- D. Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment
- E. Writing an EOP
- F. First Responder and Organizational Training
- G. Disaster Exercises
- H. Public Education
- I. Spontaneous Planning, Improvisation, Creativity, and Flexibility
- J. Leadership and Professionalism

Q. **LABORATORY OUTLINE:** N/A