University of Miami  
Department of International Studies  
School of Arts and Sciences  
INS 573- Spring 2008  
Disasters, War, Complex Emergencies and Global Public Health  
Wednesdays- 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM—Learning Center (LC) 190  

Contact:  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesdays: 10:00 AM- 12PM, Wednesdays 1:30 -3 PM and ALWAYS by appointment.

Course Description:  
We will explore the direct and indirect impact that disasters, wars, and complex emergencies have on the health and well being of populations. This semester we will seek to broaden the understanding of human security challenges in the 21st Century by examining the different perspectives, blended from the study of international affairs and epidemiology and public health. Evidence based research reveals that the delineation between a natural and human–induced disaster has become blurred over time; therefore, we need to examine the underlying factors that contribute to the short, medium and long term impacts of such emergency events on populations. There are many factors that must be considered in order to understand the new challenges for national, regional and global actors to protect, prepare, mitigate and respond to the health, safety and security of populations. Consequently, this semester we will explore the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and ecological factors of such events where poverty, inequality, disease, and ill health germinate.

Furthermore, this semester we will evaluate the impact that natural disasters, complex emergencies, civil conflict, refugee displacement, and terrorist acts may have on populations by using theoretical and evidence based research to help guide our discussions. While humanitarian responses may vary somewhat from other forms of emergency events, we must apply sound methodological approaches to best guide research, education/training, and policy analysis to improve the preparedness, mitigation and response to such events. This will require a broad based approach to improve our understanding of the multiple factors that influence the prevalence and incidence of morbidity and mortality. For example, the term slow onset event is used to describe food insecurity and potential famine risks and new tools have been developed to forecast and warn governments, organizations and civil society about such population risks. Such tools of analysis will be considered further during this semester to determine their usefulness in other human security challenges in the 21st Century.

Course Objectives:  
This course provides students with an opportunity to explore the intersection of global public health and international studies by examining the historical processes and present trends of disasters, complex emergencies, and wars and how they directly or indirectly impact human health, safety and security in the 21st Century. This will be achieved through the following objectives:
1. Explore the underlying factors of natural and human generated disasters (disasters, wars, and complex emergencies) as an important contribution to the study of world affairs.

2. Examine different conceptual frameworks related to disasters that extend beyond any one academic discipline and contribute to the wider issues of human security in world affairs.

3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the convergence of natural and human generated disaster events and their direct and indirect impact on the health and welfare of people.

Learning Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify various models developed to prevent, mitigate, and respond to natural and human-induced disasters.

2. Define terms relevant to natural and human generated emergency events.

3. Discuss the short and long term health impacts that natural and human-generated disasters have on populations.

4. Explain the concept of human security within the context of disasters, war, and complex emergencies.


Required Texts: (PLEASE PURCHASE THESE TEXTS THROUGH ONE OF THE ONLINE BOOK SELLERS. THERE ARE MANY USED COPIES AVAILABLE THROUGH AMAZON. THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE)


Required Articles:
Required Journal Articles will be identified in course syllabus and posted as a PDF’s on our blackboard course website. These weekly required readings will be posted under course assignments. Since we will use many scholarly journals and texts from different fields of study, I would suggest that students purchase large 3 ring binders and print each article for our weekly discussions, research papers, midterm exercise and final exam. I will discuss this further during our first class session.
**Additional Readings:**
Each week students are encouraged to review at least one outside source such as the New York Times, Economist, Financial Times, Washington Post or other reliable information sources. The purpose is to identify any new current events that directly or indirectly relate to disasters, complex emergencies, terrorism, civil conflict, war and public health. During the first 5 minutes of each class session we will explore new and or continuing world affairs that influence or are influenced by such events.

**Other texts:**
This includes some of the academic literature I will be using during the semester to supplement some of our discussion. I will cite information in my Power Point presentations if you would like to examine these works further. All books are available from my office.


(specifically this chapter)


**Course Requirements:**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation/Discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection papers (2)</td>
<td>(2 @ 20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Natural disaster</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Complex Humanitarian Crisis/ War/Civil Conflict</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Seminar Participation:**

Seminar participation is 20% of your final grade. Participants will be expected to arrive to class prepared to discuss required reading assignments. Students missing more than two seminar sessions are required to submit a written response to the required reading assignments for each seminar missed after the second absence. Failure to do so will incur an “F” for that 2 ½ hour session. This paper will include a response to the reading material and brief analysis. These reviews must be turned in by the next scheduled seminar, unless special considerations have been prearranged with the instructor. A summary of the reading is not necessary; however, a response to the readings and your thoughts on how this literature does (or does not) improve our understanding of human security challenges faced by events such as disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, or war. As described in the course syllabus, we will have guest lecturers from governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of disasters, complex emergencies, and civil conflict that will share their specific experiences from a field management or operational perspective. Their presentations and interactive sessions will contribute to our understanding about the theoretical and practical approaches to the study of disasters and their impact on populations.

**Additional Educational Activities:**

We will use the University Blackboard System. Please make sure you are familiar with using
this system and contact me if you need any assistance. Furthermore, as part of the educational experience, all students will participate in discussions forums on our course website. This will provide students with an additional opportunity to participate though this form of dialogue and response. It is NOT a substitute for attending seminars and participating in the classroom setting. Specific details will be posted on the course site.

Midterm Course Exercise:
This assignment represents 20% of the final grade and provides a unique opportunity for students to apply both theoretical and practical tools discussed and analyzed this semester. You will be given a briefing document that contains relevant historical background information, demographic, social, political, environmental, and economic and health data that will help you plan your work. The case study will address a disaster, complex emergency or conflict situation and request your input on how to protect and mitigate the health, safety and security of the population at risk. Explicit instructions on how to organize your work will be provided in the briefing document. This exercise will be distributed on March 5 and is due for submission on March 19. Complete it early so you can enjoy your Spring Break. This challenging, yet fun, assignment is a critical element toward achieving one of the course objectives through “examining the historical processes and present trends of disasters, complex emergencies, and wars and how they directly or indirectly impact human health, safety and security in the 21st Century.”

The instructor will provide a case study in which students will answer specific questions related to this case study. Students will write a report that examines the issues of prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction activities related to human populations at risk. Course literature, instructor’s lectures, guest presenters, and class discussions can be used to successfully complete this assignment. Additionally, students will be required to demonstrate greater analytical vigor and applied knowledge of course literature for this assignment. Specific details, writing requirements and grading scale will be distributed with the assignment.

A blackboard discussion forum will be posted to address any specific questions regarding this assignment. Please ask questions via the discussion board forum so your classmates can review the specific or general question -and my response. This will provide everyone with equal access to the same information, and will not present any unfair advantage.

Reflection Papers:
All students will complete two papers during this semester on the following areas:

(1) Natural disasters and public health
(2) Complex humanitarian crises/ War or Civil Conflict and public health

Each paper will be 8-10 double spaced typed pages and directly related to the sub categories.

1- Natural disaster:
   A. Topic approval submitted in writing on or before February 6
   B. Paper due - February 20

2- War or Civil Conflict
   A. Topic approval submitted in writing on or before March 26
   B. Paper due – April 9

During this semester, students will identify, describe, examine and critically analyze the health, safety, and/or security impact that a recent or past disaster, war or civil conflict, and
complex humanitarian crisis have (or had) on a population. While students may select any topic within the sub category, topics must be approved by the instructor. This is to ensure the student can gather enough information to satisfactorily write a paper on the event, the population at risk, and a reflection on how it could have been prevented and what could have been done to mitigate the impact. Papers will focus on the prevention as well as the reduction of injury and loss of life of people.

Papers should address the following and will be graded accordingly:
1- Identify their topic in a clear and concise way.
2- Describe the event (current or past)
3- Examine the health and welfare situation of people impacted by the event
4- Discuss if it could have been prevented / mitigated - why or why not?
5- Analyze what was done or not done to prevent/mitigate this event. You can justify your answer based on another case study or literature that helps support your answer.
6- Discuss if this event could have been predicted and why or why not?
7- Reflect on what you feel could have been done to reduce the risk of injury and/or loss of life. (Please consider at least one of the methods or approaches reviewed in this course).
8- Students will also be graded based on their inclusion of scholarly works to support their research analysis.

Writing Requirements: Select MLA, APA or Chicago style format. Cite all references in your paper. Please use the blackboard academic resource guide to ensure you are following the University of Miami guidelines. Guidelines for undergraduate and graduate honor code can also be found in the academic resource guide located at https://www.courses.miami.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_id=165_1

Final Exam:
This comprehensive essay exam represents 20% of your final grade and will cover course material, presentations, lectures and class discussions. Students will have the opportunity to select essays from a list of questions. Grading Requirements: Students will answer two (2) mandatory questions and select three (3) additional questions from a list of possible choices. Critical analysis of the subject matter and use of theoretical and practical tools will be required Students will answer a total of five (5) questions with each worth 20 points.

Important Dates:
- February 6: Submit 1st paper topic only in writing on or before this date
- February 20: 1st Paper Due (Natural Disaster)
- March 5: Distribute/Discuss Exercise
- March 19: Course Exercise Due
- March 26: Submit 2nd paper topics only in writing on or before this date
- April 9: 2nd Paper Due (War or Civil Conflict)
- April 30: Reading Week
- May 5: Final Exams Due Monday by 4 PM
Honor Code:
As stated on the University of Miami website the honor codes have been “established to protect the academic integrity of the University of Miami, to encourage consistent ethical behavior among students, and to foster a climate of fair competition. While a student's commitment to honesty and personal integrity is assumed and expected, these Codes are intended to provide an added measure of assurance that, in fulfilling the University's requirements, the student will never engage in falsification, plagiarism, or other deception regarding the materials he/she presents. Each student is responsible for completing the academic requirements of each course in the manner indicated by the faculty.” For further information please review information at https://www.courses.miami.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_id=165_1

Required Readings

JANUARY 16
Introduction to Disasters, Wars, Complex Emergencies, and Global Public Health

No Required Reading

We will discuss course requirements, course objectives, and student learning objectives. Why global public health is important to our study of world affairs? A missing component in the study of international affairs appears to be the lack of attention and commitment to the indirect and direct impact of policies on human health and welfare. We will use this course to explore war, disasters, and humanitarian crises to better understand the link between world affairs and human health and security.

JANUARY 23
Defining and describing terms associated with public health and disasters, complex emergencies, civil conflict and humanitarian efforts. How can we improve our analysis of these events through expanding the study of public health in world affairs? How do the concepts of human security and preventive diplomacy fit within our examination of the study of public health and disasters? Defining our terms will help us classify, codify, and enumerate these events over time and place, and better assess our changing world.

Guest Lecturer: (2nd half of class)
Glendene Lemard Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Lemard teaches global public health and was a graduate of the University of Miami. She completed a two year post doc at Harvard School of Public Health before joining the University of Massachusetts. She will discuss research methods that link public health to world affairs based on her dissertation work, “Violence as a Global Health Challenge: a Case Analysis of Jamaica Using an Interdisciplinary Approach.”

Required Reading:
Natural Disasters

War (Civil Conflicts)

Complex Emergencies

Preventive Diplomacy
Cahill, Kevin, ed. Preventive Diplomacy Stopping Wars Before They Start. Bedjaoui, Mohammed. The Fundamentals of Preventive Diplomacy: 29-50. (PDF posted on course website)

Human Security

JANUARY 30
Disasters- General Issues. How can we apply our methods to improve human security?

Required Reading:
Churchill, Elliot R. Effective Media Relations. 122-32.

FEBRUARY 6
Complex Emergencies- General Issues Methods in Assessing, Preventing, Intervening to secure health and welfare.

Required Reading:


Raven-Roberts, Randolph Kent, Dyan Mazurano. *Assistance, protection, and governance networks in complex emergencies*. 2134- 41. (All posted as separate PDFs on the course website)

**FEBRUARY 13**
Management of Disasters: What are the issues? What are the responses?

**Required Readings:**


**FEBRUARY 20 (Reminder: 1st Paper Due: Natural Disasters and Public Health)**
Weapons: war and terrorism and the global public health impact: nuclear, chemical, biological and more.

**Required Reading:**


*American Journal of Public Health (AJPH)*

**FEBRUARY 27 (Class in two parts): Updated**
Weapons: War. Terrorism and the Public Health Impact (continuation)
Complete last week’s discussion followed by an in class assignment. Presentations at end of class session

Class will split into groups depending upon area of interest. Topics will be specific to: nuclear, chemical, biological, small arms and lights weapons, incendiary devises and landmines.

Work sheets provided. Each small group will answer the following: Identify and discuss topic, discuss direct and indirect impact on health, security and safety, examine what history has taught us, what we can do to prevent, mitigate and/or respond to potential threats of such weapons, comments recommendations or questions to consider

**MARCH 5 (DISTRIBUTE MIDTERM EXERCISE- GET THIS DONE BEFORE SPRING BREAK SO YOU CAN ENJOY YOUR BREAK - DUE ON MARCH 19TH)**
(Class in two parts)
1st part of class: Role of Governmental and Nongovernmental Actors in Emergency Events.

**Guest Lecturer:**
Red Cross/Red Crescent as an important nongovernmental actor in emergencies
Aida V. Martinelli Director of International Programs for the American Red Cross. “Role and function of Red Cross in emergency events: response to armed conflict and other events.”
Luis Avila Senior Director of our Emergency Services Department- “Red Cross response to 9/11 and other events.”

2nd half of class:
Human Security in a Changing World

**Required Reading:**


**MARCH 12 - SPRING RECESS NO CLASSES**

**MARCH 19 (MIDTERM EXERCISE DUE AT START OF CLASS)**
War- General Issues: Assessing, Preventing, and Intervening to Secure Health and Welfare

**Required Reading:**
Part II. Impact of War and Public Health Part VII. Can war and its Public Health Consequences be Prevented?


MARCH 26 – Natural and Human Generated Disasters: Role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Disaster Recovery.

**Guest Lecturer:**
Carlos J. Castillo, Disaster Assistance Directorate
Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA)

“Role of FEMA: How to manage the Disaster Assistance Directorate for the United States.”

Before joining FEMA in Washington, DC Carlos Castillo was director of the Office of Emergency Management in Miami as well as Director of the International Disaster Responses Team for US Agency for International Development, Incident Support Team leader for FEMA (9/11, Pentagon, numerous earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, hurricanes and more nationally and internationally)

**Required Readings:**
Catch-up on Reading from March 19th! We will continue with this topic the next few weeks.
BEGIN READING FOR APRIL 2ND! Come prepared to ask questions of our prestigious and knowledgeable guest lecturers.

APRIL 2- A Special Session with the United States Southern Command
Military Conflicts and their Impacts on Populations: Role of Military and Role of Other Actors involved in War and Humanitarian Missions.

Question: How can you protect public health during conflict?

**Guest Lecturers: United States Southern Command**

Air Force Colonel Sean Murphy, the command's surgeon general, will address the medical aspects of the USNS Comfort Humanitarian Mission and also the military medical response to the earthquake in Peru this past year to include how the bureaucratic process works for countries to ask for military assistance.

Army Colonel Edmund Woolfolk, commander of military forces during Hurricane Stan Relief in October 2006, when he was the Joint Task Force-Bravo Commander at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

**Required Reading:**

Gohobarah, Hazem Adam, Paul Huth, and Bruce Russett. The post-war public health effects of civil conflict. Social Science and Medicine Vol. 59 (2004) 869-84. (PDF posted on course website)

APRIL 9
Mental Health Issues: Consequences of Disasters, War, and Complex Emergencies.

**Required Reading:**


**Guest Lecturer:**
Sheldon Levy, Program Director of the Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment and Adjunct Professor University of Miami School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health
Presentation: “War Trauma in Children and Adolescents: The Mental Health Consequences.”
Dr. Levy has extensive national and international experience working with trauma impact on children in war.

**APRIL 16**
Disasters and Conflict: Challenge of Humanitarianism

**Required Reading:**


Cahill, Kevin M., Ed. Preventive Diplomacy.-Stopping Wars Before They Start. Hansen, Peter. The Challenge of Humanitarianism. 51-66. (PDF posted on course website)


**APRIL 23** (REMININDER: Final Exam Distributed- Exam Due Monday, May 5th by 4 PM)
Addressing Challenges of Health Disasters, Terrorism and Health Security in the 21st Century

**Required Reading:**

\textbf{Challenge of Terrorism and Health Security}

\textbf{2ND HALF OF CLASS:} Class exercise and course summation. We will discuss the prevention, mitigation, response for disasters, civil conflict and humanitarian emergencies and terrorism. How can we use new methods to help predict, prevent, mitigate and reduce injuries, diseases, and loss of life? Can events be avoided?

\textbf{CLASS EXERCISE:} Critical analysis of selected case studies. Discuss the underlying factors that place people at risk. Apply conceptual frameworks to enhance our understanding of the event. Identify health risks and outcomes Determine how these risks could be (i) Predicted and avoided, (ii) Prevented or (iii) Reduced to safe lives.

\textbf{APRIL 30 - READING DAY- NO CLASS!}

\textbf{MAY 5 - Final Exam -due in my office on or before 4:00 PM.}
I will gladly welcome early submissions! I will accept electronic submissions if they are received on or before 4 PM May 5. If you electronically submit your final exam, please confirm that I have successfully received your document. Alternatively, you can submit papers to my office at the Ferré Building, Room 321.

\textbf{MAY 12}
Final grades submitted by instructor on EASY

\textbf{MAY 14}
Final grades available to students on EASY