

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course number: PubH 7200-118 #89145

Course title: Planning for Urgent Threats

Credits: 1

Course meeting times:	May Term 2005
Instructor:	Aggie Leitheiser, RN, MPH Adjunct Instructor, Public health Institute, Summer 2005 Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health
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I. Course Description

Concern over the intentional release of infectious disease agents as weapons of bioterrorism has led to an increased emphasis on the role of public health in disaster preparedness. However, public health agencies have always had a critical role in responding to public health emergencies, from outbreaks of infectious diseases to natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes. Because local and state public health agencies have limited resources in terms of staff and budgets, the occurrence of an intentional or natural disaster can place a great burden on a community's public health resources.

II. Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.
2. Identify and locate the emergency response plan (or the pertinent portion of the plan) for their agency or community.
3. Identify the limits to their own knowledge, skill and authority and identify key system resources for referring matters that exceed these skills.
4. Describe a process to assess community vulnerabilities to an intentional or natural disaster.
5. Demonstrate the ability to develop the planning process or the plan contents for a typical public health emergency plan.

III. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

Lectures, discussions and group exercises are used to present models for disaster preparedness. Guest speakers and discussions highlight the appropriate use and limitations of various management strategies and control measures.

Course grading will be determined on the basis of:

- Class participation (50 points)
- Final examination (50 points)

IV. Grading

1. **Grading Criteria:** This course is offered A/F or S/N

- A/F letter grade will be determined by total effort as follows:

A = 90-100%	(4.0) Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A- =	
B+ =	
B = 80-90%	(3.0) Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B- =	
C+ =	
C = 70-80%	(2.0) Represents achievement that meets the minimum course requirements.
C- =	
D+ =	
D = 60-70%	(1.0) Achievement below minimum course expectations but sufficient to be awarded credit.
D- =	
F = below 60%	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

- S/N option must complete all assignments to a C- level (70%):

S	Achievement that is satisfactory will be expected to complete all assignments and receive a minimum of 70% to receive a passing score (achievement required for an S is at the discretion of the instructor but may be no lower than a 70%).
F	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

2. **Grading Option** - Students may change grading options during the initial registration period or during the first two days of the term. **The grading option may not be changed after the second day of class.**
3. **Course Incomplete** - An incomplete grade is permitted only in cases of extraordinary circumstances and following consultation with the instructor. In such cases and "I" grade will require a specific written agreement between the instructor and the student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. Extension for completion of the work will not exceed one year.

4. **Scholastic Dishonesty** - This course follows the University of Minnesota Board of Regents' policy on student conduct and scholastic dishonesty which can be found at:
<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/StudentConductCode.pdf>

A grade of "F" or "N" for the entire course will be assigned for scholastic dishonesty as defined in the policy and will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs
<http://www.sja.umn.edu/>

Plagiarism is an important element of this policy. It is defined as the presentation of another's writing or ideas as your own. Serious, intentional plagiarism will result in an "F" or "N" grade for this course. For more information on this policy and for a helpful discussion of preventing plagiarism, please consult University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity:
<http://cisw.cla.umn.edu/plagiarism/uofmpolicies.html>

Students are urged to be careful that they properly attribute and cite others' work in their own writing. For guidelines for correctly citing sources, go to <http://tutorial.lib.umn.edu/>. In addition, original work is expected in this course. It is unacceptable to hand in assignments for this course for which you received credit in another course unless by prior agreement with the instructor. Building on a dissertation or final project is acceptable.

If you have any questions, consult the instructor.

V. Course Withdrawal

School of Public Health Students may withdraw from a course **through the second** day of the course without permission. No "W" will appear on the transcript. After the second day, students are required to do the following:

- The student must contact and notify their advisor and course instructor informing them of the decision to withdraw from the course.
- The student must send an email to the SPH Student Services Center (SSC). The email must provide the student name, ID#, course number, section number, semester, and year with instructions to withdraw the student from the course, and acknowledgement that the instructor and advisor have been contacted.
- The advisor and instructor must email the SSC acknowledging the student is canceling the course. All parties must be notified of the student's intent.
- The SSC will complete the process by withdrawing the student from the course after receiving all emails (student, advisor and instructor). A "W" will be placed and remain on the student transcript for the course.
- After discussion with their advisor and notification to the instructor, students may withdraw until the end of the second day of class. There is no appeal process.

VI. Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and Disability Services at the beginning of the term. All discussions remain confidential. For further information contact the University of Minnesota Disability Services website at <http://ds.umn.edu/> or call 612-626-1333 (V/TTY).

VII. Course Text and Readings

Text

There is no required text for this course. However, participants are strongly encouraged to read the book, *Public Health Management of Disasters: the Practice guide* (Landesman LY, American Public Health Association). ISBN 0-87553-025-7 The book may be purchased from the American Public Health Association at <http://www.apha.org> or from <http://Amazon.com> or you may purchase books from the University of Minnesota bookstore located in Coffman Memorial Union on the East Bank of the University.

***Copies of journal articles are not supplied unless specified.**

Readings include the following published articles from which examination questions may be selected:

To access the articles, go to the PubMed website at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>
Type in the PMID number listed on the course materials, click the go button
This takes you to a citation page, click on the author name
This takes you to the abstract page, click on the journal title button
This takes you to the full journal article

Hogan D, Waeckerle, J, Dire, D, Lillibridge, S. Emergency department impact of the Oklahoma City terrorist bombing. *Ann Emerg Med.* 1999 Aug;34(2):160-7.
PMID: 10424916

Holloway, H. et al. The threat of biological weapons. Prophylaxis and mitigation of psychological and social consequences.
JAMA. 1997 Aug 6;278(5):425-7.
(Will be provided on the first day of class.)

Logue, J. Disasters, the environment, and public health: improving our response.
Am J Public Health. 1996 Sep;86(9):1207-10.
(Will be provided on the first day of class.)

Pelfrey V. "The cycle of Preparedness: Establishing a Framework to Prepare for Terrorist Threats" *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.* 2005 Volume 2, Issue1, Article 5
(Will be provided on the first day of class.)

Waeckerle, J. Disaster planning and response. *N Engl J Med.* 1991 Mar 21;324(12):815-21.
(Will be provided on the first day of class.)

Additional readings and resources may be found at:

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>
CDC Public Health Preparedness and Response
- <http://www.health.state.mn.us/oep/index.htm>
Minnesota Department of Health Office of Emergency Preparedness
- <http://www.publichealthplanet.org>
University of MN Center for Public Health Education and Outreach, Public Health Planet

VIII. Course Outline

Day 1 Monday May 23

Overview of the Course and Introduction to the Topic

Aggie Leitheiser, Adjunct Instructor, Public Health Institute, Summer 2005 Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

Emergency Management Response to Disasters (about 10:15 to 11:15)

Lowell Johnson,

Director Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment

Overview of Class Project Assignment

Aggie Leitheiser

Day 2 Tuesday May 24

Overview Of Disasters And Assessment Of Community Vulnerabilities

Biologic Events and Issues (about 8:05 to 9:05)

Richard Danila, PhD Adjunct Assistant Professor, Epidemiology

Assistant State Epidemiologist and Section Manager, Acute Disease Investigation and Control Section, Minnesota Department of Health

Environmental Events and Issues (about 9:15 to 10:15)

David B. W. Jones, M.S., Research Scientist, Environmental Health Division, Minnesota Department of Health

Community Assessment of Vulnerabilities and Resources

Aggie Leitheiser

Day 3 Wednesday May 25

Emergency Response Planning And Plans

State plans (about 8:05 to 9:05)

Scott Mulert, MPA, Planning and Education Supervisor, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Minnesota Department of Health

Local and Regional Plans (about 9:15 to 10:15)

Mickey Scullard, MPH, REHS, Public Health Preparedness Consultant, Community & Family Health Division, St. Cloud District Office, Minnesota Department of Health

National Plans

Aggie Leitheiser

Day 4 Friday May 27

Resources, Training And Workforce Issues

Aggie Leitheiser

Class Project reports

Class Participants

Final Exam