

SYLLABUS

Course Description and Syllabus

FES 4835 – Natural Disaster Phenomena for Emergency Services

Fall 2020

Faculty:

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Office hours: 5 to 9 p.m. weekdays. * You can email or text me any time.

Ronnie Gill Jr. has over 30 years of public safety experience with the last seven years as the Director of the Office of Emergency Management for Prince George’s County, Maryland. Mr. Gill was previously employed with the District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department and retired after 25 years as the Deputy Fire Chief of Special Operations and Homeland Security. Under his direction, the Office of Emergency Management provides oversight and coordination for emergency and disaster consequence management planning, response and recovery operations for Prince George’s County.

Mr. Gill is a graduate of the United States Fire Administration’s National Fire Academy, Executive Fire Officer Program, Mr. Gill earned his Associate and Bachelor of Fire Science Degrees from the University of the District of Columbia and Master of Science in Management from the Johns Hopkins University. In addition, he is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Fire and Emergency Management from Oklahoma State University.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Key elements:

- Providing the foundations for establishing policies as is relates to disaster/emergency management
- Application of leadership concepts through critical thinking
- Analysis and development of personal leadership skills

Disaster Policy in Emergency Management is a three (3) credit course scheduled to meet each fall semester via distance education (online learning) via the Canvas Learning Management System platform. This is a graded course with no prerequisites.

The course examines the spectrum of natural disasters prevalent in the United States and globally, past, present, and future. Topics include hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, flooding, freezes, snow, and agricultural emergencies. Also addresses planning, operations, mitigation, recovery, and evaluation concerns.

- **REQUIRED TEXT:**

- *Natural Disasters (2015) Abbott, P. McGraw-Hill Science/Engineering/Math; 11th edition ISBN13: 9781260220636*
- Additional resource materials will be distributed to supplement the above textbook.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between a natural hazard, a natural disaster, and a great natural disaster.
- Identify Earthquake Geology and Seismology.
- Explain the history of Earthquakes throughout the United States and Canada.
- Demonstrate an understanding of Tsunami versus Wind-Caused Waves.
- Explain the essentials of Coastal Processes and Hazards.
- Identify the differences of External Energy Fuels Weather and Climate
- Demonstrate an understanding of Tornadoes, Lightning, Heat, and Cold
- Explain the presidential disaster declaration processes
- Demonstrate an understanding of Hurricanes
- Identify the differences of Tornadoes, Lightning, Heat, and Cold
- Demonstrate an understanding of Climate Change
- Explain the essentials of Floods
- Explain the essentials of Fire
- Effectively communicate their understanding of Impacts with Space Objects
- Demonstrate an understanding of Mass Movements

COURSE GOALS

1. The student will interpret and apply the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within systems management.
2. The student expresses ideas in a convincing, organized, clear, and coherent manner that is nearly error free and uses a style and language appropriate to the emergency services and the analytic profession.
3. Submitted written assignments should include elements such as, well-crafted paragraphs, a persuasive organizational structure (e.g., introduction, body, conclusion; or introduction, methods, results, discussion), well-supported claims, and appropriate and effective stylistic elements adhering to APA style 6th edition.
4. The student considers the issues from multiple perspectives, logically analyzes evidence from credible, relevant sources, and develops reasoned conclusions.

Teaching Philosophy: I am looking for students to demonstrate a working knowledge of the subject. You need to be creative when you complete your assignments but maintain a professional appearance of your work. Your work should be completed in such a manner that someone can pick up your document and understand what you are trying to convey. Your work should be supported with research and cited in APA format.

Instructional Methods: The course is designed for individual and group interactivity. It is important to post and respond to discussion questions in the course within the time frame allotted. This provides a learning environment by networking with other students in the course. The assignments are individual based to give you the opportunity to do a variety of activities, in many cases, similar to what you will be doing in role as a leader in the emergency services profession.

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

Class meetings may require a web camera and mic/audio. If you are not able to use a web camera you will need to at least provide audio/mic, you can call in on a phone also. Otherwise, discussions and assignments will be web based and submissions will occur electronically. If technology help is required, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit to submit a complaint.

UF online/internet privacy statement: <http://privacy.ufl.edu/privacy-policies-and-procedures/onlineinternet-privacy-statement>.

UF POLICIES:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office.

The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Conduct:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Netiquette (Communication Courtesy): All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.

COURSE POLICIES:

This course is delivered exclusively via a distance education (online learning) format. Although online learning has many advantages, including convenience of course participation, non-restrictive geographic locations, and independent study, it also imposes some very significant demands.

Probably the two most important demands are: self-discipline and motivation. To succeed in online learning courses, it is imperative that you maintain a strict, self-imposed schedule and commit time to fulfill the readings and complete the assignments. Experience has shown that students that do not discipline themselves to maintain a strict schedule fall behind in the courses and never catch up. The other demand that is important is to stay motivated. At times, the workload may appear daunting, but if you maintain your focus and continue to make progress every day, it is incredible what can be accomplished. Remember: stay motivated and maintain your schedule to complete course requirements.

Unlike other courses, online learning has limited restrictions regarding absences since there is no regular classroom time. However, failure to meet weekly/bi-weekly assignments will not only impede your ability to complete the course, it will also impact your grade negatively. Therefore, be sure to execute and maintain a regular and high level of participation in each course. It is recommended that you read the assignment as early as possible to allow adequate time to respond to Discussion Board Questions or other assignments. **Posting Discussion Board responses early allows your fellow students ample time to contemplate your responses and to provide comments to your responses (an integral component of online learning).**

Posting on Discussion Boards on the last day does not allow for student interaction and will impact your grade negatively. Your initial post must be at least 250 words and posted in the first week of the Bi-weekly Module, with a 150-word response to a minimum of two fellow students to be completed no later than the second week. Initial posts are due one week before the module due date for full credit. **Please use APA format by citing any outside sources.** Failure to follow this process will result in an automatic 1.5-point reduction. If you do not respond to

two other peers' initial posts by the due date you will receive a deduction of 2.5 points per student to a max of 5 points.

Please make every effort to post your responses, complete your reading assignments, submit any written assignments or projects, and provide commentary to others' responses by the due date and time.

Most courses will require all bi-weekly session assignments to be completed by the start of the next session. Session conclusion and beginning of the next session occurs regularly each other week on a designated "turn-over" day. The turn-over day for this course is noted below. Be sure to complete all assignments by the turn-over day and time deadlines for each week as required.

For this course, that turn-over day is **Sunday** and the deadline time is **11:59 PM (Eastern Time)**. That means that bi-weekly assignments or discussion questions posted on a **Monday** must be completed and posted online (or for written assignments, electronically submitted) by **11:59 PM on every other Sunday. There are only extreme exceptions or relaxation to this requirement.** These requirements are critical to maintain progression through the course, and to prevent you from falling behind. Please remember: Online learning requires a high level of motivation and self-discipline.

****QUIZ/EXAM POLICY:** There is a final project for this course. There are no exams or quizzes.

****MAKE-UP POLICY:** You must contact me if you are going to be late on any assignment to receive credit (This is on a case-by-case basis). ****Assignment Policy:** *All assignments have a due date. Please be sure to check the date and time it is due in each module.*

Late Assignments and Discussion Posts

- Assignments 48 hours late will receive a 10% deduction in their grade.
- Assignments more than 48 hours but less than 30 days late will receive a 20% deduction in their grade.
- Assignments more than 30 days late but submitted during the semester will receive a 50% deduction in their grade.
- Discussions more than 48 hours late will receive a 25% deduction in their grade.
- Discussions more than 48 hours later will receive a 50% deduction in their grade.

Please note: Any student has less than 75% of their work complete for the semester cannot earn an "I" contract. If you have 75% of the work complete, you can propose an I contract to the instructor. It is always your responsibility to keep your instructor informed. The instructor does have the right under extenuating circumstances with proper notification to assist the student by extending the above time requirements. ***Points will be deducted for all late assignments.**

GRADING SCALE:

A= 93.0 to 100%	C = 73.0 to 76.9%
A- = 90.0 to 92.9%	C- = 70.0 to 72.9%
B+ = 87.0 to 89.9%	D+ = 67.0 to 69.9%
B = 83.0 to 86.9%	D = 63.0 to 66.9%
B- = 80.0 to 82.9%	D- = 60.0 to 62.9%
C+ = 77.0 to 79.9%	F = below 60 See https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx . Links to an external site. regarding current UF grading policies.

COURSE GRADES:

Assignment	Point or Percentage
Grading Discussion Participation – 10 points each discussion (including introduction)	80 points
Homework Assignments – 20 points each assignment	140 points
Final Project - comprehensive and applied	100 points
Total Grade	320 points

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points:

To convert the final grade to credit hours please refer to by using the link to the web page: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Student Evaluations:

“Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.”

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Module	Coursework
Module 0: Orientation – Read syllabus and review course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course Introductions• Syllabus Quiz
Module 1: Prologue and Natural Disasters & the Human Population (Chapter 1) and Internal Energy and Plate Tectonics (Chapter 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 1 Overview• Module 1 Video• Discussion 1• Writing Assignment 1
Module 2: Read: Earthquake Geology and Seismology (Chapter 3), Plate Tectonics and Earthquakes (Chapter 4), Earthquakes throughout the United States and Canada (Chapter 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 2 Overview• Module 2 Video• Discussion 2• Writing Assignment 2
Module 3: Read: Volcanic Eruptions: Plate Tectonics and Magmas (Chapter 6) Volcano Case Histories: Killer Events (Chapter 7) and Tsunami versus Wind-caused Waves (Chapter 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 3 Overviews• Module 3 Videos• Discussion 3• Writing Assignment 3
Module 4: Read: External Energy Fuels Weather and Climate (Chapter 9), Tornadoes, Lightning, Heat, and Cold (Chapter 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 4 Overviews• Module 4 Videos• Discussion 4• Writing Assignment 4
Module 5: Read: Hurricanes (Chapter 11) and Climate Change (Chapter 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 5 Overviews• Module 5 Videos• Discussion 5• Writing Assignment 5

<p>Module 6: Read: Floods (Chapter 13), Fire (Chapter 14) and Mass Movements (Chapter 15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 6 Overviews • Module 6 Videos • Discussion 6 • Writing Assignment 6
<p>Module 7: Read: Processes and Hazards (Chapter 16), Coastal Impacts with Space Objects (Chapter 17) and the Chapter 18, "The Great Dying"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 7 Overviews • Module 7 Videos • Discussion 7 • Writing Assignment 7
<p>Module 8: Final Project due</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module Overview • Final Project • End-of-Course Survey

Assignment Date	Details	
Mon Aug 31, 2020	Module Zero Introduction	Due by Sep 06 11:59pm
Mon Aug 31, 2020	Module One Discussion	Due by Sep 13 11:59pm
	Module One Written	Due by Sep 13 11:59pm
Mon Sep 14, 2020	Module Two Discussion	Due by Sep 27 11:59pm
	Module Two Written	Due by Sep 27 11:59pm
Mon Sep 28, 2020	Module Three Discussion	Due by Oct 11 11:59pm
	Module Three Written	Due by Oct 11 11:59pm
Mon Oct 12, 2020	Module Four Discussion	Due by Oct 25 11:59pm
	Module Four Written	Due by Oct 25 11:59pm
Mon Oct 26, 2020	Module Five Discussion	Due by Nov 08 11:59pm
	Module Five Written	Due by Nov 08 11:59pm
Mon Nov 09, 2020	Module Six Discussion	Due by Nov 22 11:59pm
	Module Six Written	Due by Nov 22 11:59pm
Mon Nov23, 2020	Module Seven Discussion	Due by Dec 06 11:59pm
	Module Seven Written	Due by Dec 06 11:59pm
Mon Oct 12, 2020*	Module Eight Final Project	Due by Dec 14 11:59pm

*Final Project will open on October 12, 2020