This course will focus on understanding the nature of disasters and the social impact of disaster on communities. The first decade in the 21st century has seen many major disasters, beginning in 2001 with the terrorist disaster of 9/11, in 2003 European heat wave, in 2004 the natural disasters of the Indian Ocean Tsunami that killed 230,000, in 2005 the Kashmir earthquake that killed 86,000 in Pakistan, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina, in 2007 the shootings at Virginia Tech, in 2008 the Sichuan earthquake in China, in 2010 the Russian heat wave and Haiti earthquake, in 2011 the combined natural and man-made disaster of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan which led to the meltdown of Fukushima nuclear power plant, the very destructive 2011 tornado season in the southeastern United States, and the 2011 BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast. Students will learn how communities plan for and respond to disasters, and the dynamics of disaster responses, including the political and economic impacts. Students will develop greater understanding of community involvement responding to disasters by completing several EMI modules.

RATIONALE:

This course will provide students with an understanding of social responses to disasters and orient students to understanding and structuring potential responses to disasters.

I. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

GOAL A: Students will describe the social impact of disasters.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1: Describe the cause and social response of natural disasters.

A-2: Describe the cause and social response of man-made disasters.
A-3: Identify media responses to disasters.
A-4: Analyze the governmental responses to disasters.
A-5: Identify both the immediate and long-term effects of disasters.

**GOAL B: Students will explain differences in various social responses to disasters.**

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1: Describe differences in how societies respond to disaster.
B-2: Discuss the roles of poverty and technology in disaster response.
B-3: Explain the fundamental issues that influence government-organized disaster responses.
B-4: Analyze how media portray disasters and influence disaster responses.

**GOAL C: Students will identify and describe the different stages of disaster responses.**

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1: Analyze disaster responses in previous disasters.
C-2: Explain stages of disaster responses based on models used in developed countries.

**GOAL D: Students will analyze potential disasters in their own geographic areas.**

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

D-1: Describe past disasters that have occurred in a nearby geographical area.
D-2: Analyze the social impact of those past disasters.
D-3: Identify hazards in their environment.
D-4: Identify and describe the laws, regulations, and policies of disaster response in one’s geographic area.

**GOAL E: Students will explore the emergency management operations system in their geographic area.**

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

E-1: Identify facilities, equipment, and procedures used in the emergency management system.
E-2: Develop a hypothetical emergency response plan to a potential disaster in their geographic area.