

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CJUS 383

BEHAVIORAL DIMENSIONS OF DISASTER

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the sociological, psychological, and physiological human responses to natural and human-made disasters. Students will examine normal and abnormal psychological reactions, the recovery process, and principles of mental health care for victims and responders of disasters. Differences between natural and human-made disasters are examined and factors that mitigate post-traumatic effects are reviewed. Response of the public and individuals to disaster-related issues including: disaster warning, evacuations, relations, civil unrest, loss of family and property, and recovery activities are examined. Sociological and psychological aspects of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) disasters are also considered. Students develop an awareness of the effect of human influence and behavior on disaster response and recovery.

RATIONALE

This course cultivates an understanding of different cultures and international actions. It promotes an understanding of Western tradition and American historical aspects of emergency management. It fosters university-level competencies in writing, speaking, reading, analytical reasoning, computer literacy, and research and challenges the student to acquire knowledge independently through scientific research. It also promotes the evaluation of moral and ethical decision making. The student will develop competence in determining an approach to vocation. This course nurtures the maturing of spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical qualities through the synthesis of academic knowledge and Christian values. It cultivates sensitivity to others with commitment to better humanity and encourages commitment to Christian life while actively communicating Christian faith, personal integrity, and social responsibility, all achieved through Jesus Christ, the Lord and personal Savior.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Evaluate the impact of disasters on human behavior.
- B. Describe influences and theory related to disaster human behavior.
- C. Identify current disaster research needs.
- D. Develop a foundation for a disaster research proposal.
- E. Discuss a research problem based on a review of the literature.
- F. Evaluate recommendations for future disaster research.
- G. Compare Scripture and biblical perspectives with real-world situations.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 250–300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to at least 2 other students' threads. Each reply must be 100–150 words.

All threads and replies must reflect critical thought. Relate the course content to real-world applications with biblical perspectives and cite a minimum of 1 source, per response, in current APA format.

- D. Disaster Analysis Paper

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the impact of a disaster on human behavior using theory and a system analysis of the factors influencing behavioral responses to disasters. At a minimum, the paper must integrate the following: at least 2 theories from the text; disaster disruption and adjustment; types of human behavior; influences on human behavior; and a comparison of reactions in the United States with those in another country or countries. The paper must be written in current APA format, be 700–1,050 words, and include evidence from at least 4 scholarly sources to support the evaluation and analysis.

- E. Research Assessment Paper

The purpose of this paper is to identify and describe a current disaster research need. This paper will be the foundation for developing a potential research proposal. As such, an extensive search of the existing literature is required with

scholarly and academic sources being properly cited. An evaluation of the literature will be used to develop a topic, problem statement, and conclusion.

The paper must strictly follow current APA guidelines, be 1,000–1,600 words, and include at least 5 sources. To achieve the goals of this paper, more than the minimum number of sources may be necessary.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 75 pts ea)	600
Disaster Analysis Paper	175
Research Assessment Paper	225
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g., death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CJUS 383

Textbook: Fischer, H. W., III, *Response to Disaster* (2008).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Fischer: ch. 1 2 presentations 1 video 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 75
2	Fischer: ch. 2 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 2	75
3	Fischer: ch. 3 1 presentation 3 websites	DB Forum 3	75
4	Fischer: ch. 4 1 presentation 1 video 2 websites	DB Forum 4 Disaster Analysis Paper	75 175
5	Fischer: ch. 5 (pp. 115–142) 1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 5	75
6	Fischer: ch. 5 (pp. 142–174) 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 6	75
7	Fischer: ch. 5 (pp. 175–197) 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 7	75
8	Fischer: ch. 6 1 presentation 3 websites	DB Forum 8 Research Assessment Paper	75 225
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.