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
CRIS 306
COMPLEX TRAUMA AND DISASTERS: OFFERING EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine the role of faith-based organizations, faith communities, and pastors and clergy in the care of emotional and spiritual health in individuals, communities, and organizations following trauma and disaster. Specifically, topics will include the life cycle of a disaster, exclusive types of trauma and disasters, models of response for faith-based communities, collaborative efforts between mental health professionals and faith-based services, and other salient factors for effective emotional and spiritual care.

RATIONALE
Disasters and trauma are inevitable, and research has consistently shown that many people turn to the church or faith community for help. In fact, some studies have shown that most people will not only turn first, but in many cases only to spiritual care providers. In fact, in a 2001 survey by the American Red Cross only one month after 9/11, nearly 60 percent of those polled were likely or very likely to turn to a spiritual leader for help, whereas only 40 percent were likely or very likely to turn to a mental health professional. The need for pastors/clergy to have a collaborative and planned response to crises and disaster cannot be understated for the emotional and spiritual health of the individuals, congregations, communities, and organizations they serve.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
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 Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Explain the symptoms and nature of complex trauma and disasters and the effects on the body, mind, emotions, and spiritual dimension of individuals, groups, and communities.

B. Explain the stages of disaster response and implement intervention strategies for emotional and spiritual care during each stage.

C. Compare and contrast various types of crisis intervention in disasters and articulate and implement collaboration plans between faith-based and mental health services.

D. Examine, discuss, and integrate all issues, theories, assumptions, materials, etc., presented in the course in accord with current scholarly standards and practices.

E. Examine, discuss, and integrate all issues, theories, assumptions, materials, etc., presented in the course through the lens of Scripture.

F. Analyze and apply the components of comprehensive trauma assessment, considering the differential impact trauma has emotionally and spiritually on individuals, families, groups, and communities of faith.

G. Explain how spirituality and religion can support survivor healing and how it can cause further harm.

H. Implement an appropriate plan of action that includes applying Incident Command System (ICS) management principles to a crisis or disaster response operation.

I. Explain the importance of being culturally adept when responding to a crisis in an unfamiliar culture, especially as it relates to sex trafficking, genocide, and related trauma.

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 (5)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will post a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be a minimum of 400 words. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmate’s thread. Each reply must be a minimum of 200 words. Threads must address the topic in a clear and concise fashion, using outside sources (quotes from the course textbooks, other books, and/or journal articles) as needed to support the student’s point. (CLOs A, B, D, E, G, I)

D. Theology of Suffering Paper

Prior to turning in the research paper, the student will turn in a 1-page summary (in current APA format with title page, abstract, and reference page) of his/her
personal theology of suffering for the instructor’s feedback prior to the research paper being turned in. This will help the student fully think through his/her own theology prior to turning in the paper. (CLOs E, F, G)

E. Outline of Disaster Response

The student will turn in a 1-page outline (in current APA format with title page, abstract, and reference page) of his/her disaster response plan in the church. The purpose of this paper is to gain feedback from the instructor prior to the research paper on the plan of action the student is proposing. (CLOs B, C, D, H)

F. Research Paper

Without one’s own understanding of the purpose of suffering, crisis responders cannot truly offer emotional and spiritual care in disasters and provide comfort and direction to others in their suffering and pain. With that thought in mind, the student must compile an original paper of 8–10 pages in current APA format that begins by explaining his/her own personal theology of suffering. The student must use commentary and biblical references to support his/her position. In addition, the student must explain how he/she would consult with a congregation to set up a plan of preparation for pre-incidence disasters. Utilizing information presented in the textbooks as well as theoretical and practical elements from academic and Christian sources, the student must describe how he/she would foster resiliency in the pastor and the congregation. A minimum of 10 scholarly sources (books and journal articles) is required in addition to the textbooks (if applicable). Grades will be assigned based on quality of content, how well APA guidelines are adhered to, the richness of citations utilized, quality of expression, and biblical integration presented. (CLOs A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

G. Exams (4)

There will be 4 exams over the video presentation materials. You will be viewing 15 presentations embedded in the course, each about 50 minutes. As you view these, take notes on the content which you will then be allowed to use when taking the exams.

The exams are composed of 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions and are timed. Each exam is open-book/open-notes and contains a 30-minute time limit. Only by becoming familiar with the material in advance, will the exams be completed successfully. Time begins when the exam is opened, and multiple attempts are not allowed. The questions are selected at random, so each exam will vary in its content. (CLOs A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

| Course Requirements Checklist | 10 |
| Discussion Board Forums (5 at 50 pts) | 250 |
| Theology of Suffering Paper | 50 |
| Outline of Disaster Response | 50 |
| Research Paper | 250 |
Exams (4 at 100 pts) 400
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. Course Disclaimer: Students enrolling in CRIS ___ should be aware of the sensitive nature of the content related to trauma and crisis covered in this course. If they have recently gone through a trauma or are currently seeking counseling around issues of trauma and crisis, it is recommended they consider this disclaimer prior to committing to the course.

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.

V. Bibliography


Incident Command System – IS-100 (For a complete list of free online FEMA courses go to [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) and search for the Independent Study Courses).

Light Our Way: A publication of the Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). [www.nvoad.org](http://www.nvoad.org)


# Course Schedule

**CRS 306**

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<tr>
<th>Week/Module</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Koenig: ch. 1</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist DB Forum 1</td>
<td>10 50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: Intro, chs. 1–2 2 presentations</td>
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<td>Koenig: chs. 2–4 2 presentations</td>
<td>Theology of Suffering Paper Exam 1</td>
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<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: chs. 4–52 2 presentations</td>
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<td>Koenig: chs. 5–6 2 presentations</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: chs. 7–9 2 presentations</td>
<td>Outline of Disaster Response Exam 2</td>
<td>50 100</td>
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<td>Koenig: chs. 7–10 2 presentations</td>
<td>DB Forum 3</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: chs. 10 &amp; 16 1 presentation</td>
<td>DB Forum 4 Exam 3</td>
<td>50 100</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: ch. 14 2 presentations</td>
<td>DB Forum 5 Research Paper</td>
<td>50 250</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Roberts &amp; Ashley: chs. 13 &amp; 20 2 presentations</td>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Total Points: 1010**

**DB = Discussion Board**

**NOTE:** Each course week (except 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 week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.