



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Course Title PUBH7117 Health Aspects of Disasters

Course Co-ordinator: Professor Maxine Whittaker

Mode: Block – Summer Semester

Course Introduction:

This short course is a 5 day intensive course that will cover important thematic areas such as: types, phases and effects of disasters on health, nutrition and mortality; public health and medical responses; infectious disease and nutritional emergencies; pandemic scenarios; refugee camps; psychosocial effects; co-ordination of donor and aid agencies; and disaster preparedness. The course will also include case studies of recent disasters presented by those with direct experience of these situations. The short course will have significant inputs from academic, military, civilian, non-government and international organizations in both case studies of particular disasters and important themes in health aspects of disasters. The course aims to foster interaction between the various responding organisations. This course is open to students and non award participants.

Course Aims:

To enhance the knowledge, concepts and practice of individuals with interest in working in disasters and complex emergencies.

Course Content:

Specific Topics include:- Types of disasters and health effects; Phases of disasters and responses; Complex emergencies; Communicable diseases as disasters; Shelter and camp planning; Disaster epidemiology; Terrorism; Australia's preparedness for disaster; The military capacity and response to disasters; Mental health issues in disaster; Reproductive health; Protections and vulnerability; Nutrition, famine and interventions; Case studies of emergency response

Method of Assessment

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| • Group presentation | 30% |
| • Individual written assignment | 70% |

Required Resources and Texts:

Reference list of required texts, readings, online and electronic resources are available for each session on the University Intranet.

Further details are provided in the Course Profile.

http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7117