Instructors:
Dr. Wayne W. Westhoff
Robert Tabler, Ph.D.(c), M.A., M.A.
College of Public Health
13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL  33612

Telephone:
Westhoff: (813) 974-6621
e-mail: wwesthof@hsc.usf.edu
Tabler: (813) 974-2908
e-mail: rtabler@hsc.usf.edu

Instructor Office Hours via e-mail or chatroom:
Tuesday 5:00-6:00 and by appointment.

Textbook:


Course Description:
This course is designed to develop or improve the skills of persons interested in providing emergency health services in humanitarian emergencies. The course is divided into two parts:

Meeting health needs:
Focuses on technical assistance such as food & nutrition, water & sanitation, providing health services, reproductive health and control of communicable diseases.

Humanitarian and ethical Issues:
Covers international humanitarian law, human rights, ethics, and geopolitical issues related to population displacement particularly from conflict.
Course Content:

*Definitions and responses*
How do we define a disaster? Definitions used in disaster management. What is a complex humanitarian emergency? Who is a refugee? Who looks after refugees and internally displaced persons?

*Disaster Management*
How best to prepare a response to an emergency? What are the expected hazards? Who are in the vulnerable populations? What is the magnitude of risk?

*Conducting assessments*
Populations affected by emergencies have urgent public health needs. Predicting and measuring these needs are critical to an effective response effort. Identifying at risk populations.

*Responding to needs*
Priority of needs must be determined and urgent needs met as quickly as possible. Yet, effectiveness must be achieved and long-term outcomes considered.

*Environmental health*
Epidemics are common in emergencies because environmental health is frequently of inferior quality than in normal conditions. Basic public health actions can prevent outbreaks if appropriate measures are put into place early.

*Food and nutrition*
In emergencies the greatest need is often food. Yet, knowing what supplies are appropriate and distributing them equitably are frequently difficult.

*Information and surveillance*
The health status of populations affected by disasters must be monitored in order to improve decision-making.

*Communicable diseases*
Populations displaced in emergencies are often at risk of disease, both pre-existing, and those arising from a new or altered environment.

*Reproductive health*
Refugees have different reproductive health needs from other populations. Some groups are increasingly at risk from HIV.

*Humanitarian ethics*
Maintaining neutrality, humanity, impartiality, independence and assuring equity in access to services is an ethical issue in emergencies.

*International Humanitarian Law*
Humanitarian measures are guided by the Geneva conventions, which protect the safety of civilians, non-combatants and health workers in a conflict.

**Human rights and human security**
Violation of basic human rights is often the basis for loss of human security and livelihoods. Awareness may prevent many abuses. Security issues also exist for the humanitarian aid worker operating in the field.

**Course Objectives:**
By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- Select at least two methods of assessment for specific emergency situations in the field.
- Develop and implement one general or one specific assistance health program for a displaced population.
- Foresee the possible development of immediate assistance projects into development programs.
- Develop a seamless approach to provision of services among humanitarian organizations.
- Develop, implement, and monitor adequacy of services provided to affected populations.
- Assess choices made in the field by their ethical implications.
- Apply the principles of International Humanitarian Law to providing services in conflict situations.

**Course Requirements:**
1. Participate in chat-room discussions with other students in your specific group. Each week there will be a continuation of a scenario that will need to be addressed in a group discussion (10%).

2. Prepare a term paper with a minimum length of 15 pages on a topic in humanitarian assistance. Each topic selected by a student, must have the instructors approval (30%).

3. Mid-term exam (30%)

4. Final exam (30%)

**Grading Policy:**
Grading will be determined a grading system of A, B, C, D, or F. No + or – will be given.

**Miscellaneous University Policy notes:**
No makeup of missed work will be allowed. There will be no lectures as all classes will be in an open forum format and thus selling notes or tapes is not an issue. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the dates to the instructor, in writing, by the second meeting of the class.

**Schedule of Classes:**

**Week 1 - Basics of Public Health Emergencies in Large Populations (WWW, RT)**

Readings:

**Week 2 – Planning and Initial Assessment (WWW)**

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 7–54, 309
- War and Public Health – pages 3–21
- Assessment and Planning. Pages 3–16.
- Minimum Standards.

**Week 3 - Environmental Health (WWW)**

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 66-80
- War and Public Health – pages 77-119
- Water Sources – ANNEX 16, ANNEX 17, ANNEX 20
- Water and War: A symposium on water in armed conflicts

Week 4 - Shelter and Site Planning (RT)

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 114–123
- War and Public Health – pages 112-18

Week 5 – Nutrition and catch-up for on-line issues (WWW)

Readings:

Week 6 - Epidemiology (RT)

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 191-205
Investigate a cholera outbreak in a Mozambican refugee camp in Malawi, 1988.


Week 7 - Implementing Health Services (WWW)

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 243-285
- War and Public Health – pages 301-332

Week 8 - Communicable Diseases (WWW)

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 145–190; 314–363
- War and Public Health – pages 123–188

Week 9 - MIDTERM EXAM (Take-home)

Week 10 - Reproductive Health (WWW)

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 252-259

Week 11 - **Mental Health (RT)**

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 286-281
- War and Public Health – pages 235–237

Week 12 - **Resettlement and Ethical Issues (RT)**

Readings:
- Refugee Health – pages 295–306
- War and Public Health – pages 407-433
International Red Cross. (1994). Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Week 13 - TERM PAPER DUE

Week 14 - International Humanitarian Law/ Human Security (WWW)

Readings:
War and Public Health – pages 379–403
Week 15 - **Coordination and Inter-relationships of agencies in a disaster (RT)**

Readings:
- War and Public Health – pages 434-446

Week 16 - **FINAL EXAM**

REFERENCES


Assessment and Planning. Pages 3–16.


International Red Cross. (1994). Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations.


Minimum Standards.


Water Sources – ANNEX 16, ANNEX 17, ANNEX 20

Water and War: A symposium on water in armed conflicts.


World Development Indicators. (2001). Women in development.