

Principles of All-Hazard Responding in Animal Welfare

VME 6934

3 credits

University of Florida Distance Education Graduate Program in Shelter Medicine

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course will provide students with in-depth knowledge of the all hazards approach to emergency planning and response and how it affects people and animals.

Course Content

As individuals in animal welfare, there will come a time in our careers where we will be faced with a disaster response. Disasters come in many forms; hurricanes, tornadoes, pandemics to hoarding situations and can affect both large and small animals as well as people. Hurricane Katrina was catastrophic and affected thousands of people and their pets. From this disaster we learned that our disaster plans must consider people AND their pets. This course will provide the student with a better understanding of the all hazards approach, how to apply the cycle of animal disaster response to all forms of disaster and how to plan for and respond to disasters efficiently and effectively.

The course is taught entirely online during the 12-week summer semester and does not require any synchronous attendance. Lessons include recorded lectures, assigned readings, and interactive activities and discussions with classmates. A final project requires students to apply what they have learned to prepare standard operating procedures and policies for disaster situations that might be responded to by an animal welfare organization. Students should expect to spend a minimum of 9 to 11 hours each week completing the work assigned within the course modules over the semester. This course is equivalent to a 3 credit (45 instructional hours) course that might be taught in-person.

Course Pre-requisites/Co-Requisites

VME 6820 Introduction to Veterinary Disaster Response (can be taken concurrently in summer semesters)

Course Website

<https://onlinesheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/>

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the all-hazards approach to animal welfare
2. Discover why animals matter in disaster response planning
3. Demonstrate knowledge of disaster management cycle
4. Construct an interdisciplinary community approach to hoarding disasters
5. Evaluate a large animal sheltering plan
6. Describe natural and man-made disasters faced by the animal welfare community
7. Assess your communities' strengths and weaknesses in disaster response planning
8. Identify and demonstrate animal welfare challenges during a pandemic
9. Demonstrate knowledge of emergency sheltering

Materials and Supplies Fees

Required Textbooks and Software

1. All required readings are provided in the modules and through Course Reserves.

Required Technology: Computer with reliable, high speed internet access; your preferred web browser; video player with ability to play MP4 videos; speakers and/or headphones and working sound; PDF reader. For more information on hardware and software necessary to run Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2059> (Links to an external site.). Canvas offers mobile applications for both [Apple](#) (Links to an external site.) and [Android](#) (Links to an external site.) products. These apps may be downloaded in the respective app stores. Depending on the device and your equipment, not all Canvas features may be available on the app at this time. For more information on Canvas apps, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-1542> (Links to an external site.).

Recommended Materials

Recommended readings as posted on the course Canvas website.

Course Schedule (Based on a 12 week Summer Semester)

Module/Weeks	Topic/Concepts	Activities/Assignments
1: Introduction (1 week)	Introductions of faculty, classmates, course technology, course syllabus and expectations	Introductions Discussion Assignment Readings
2: All Hazards Approach (2 weeks)	Disaster Considerations PPE Disaster Planning Strengths and Weaknesses of the All Hazards Approach Disaster Management Cycle	Readings Assignment
3. Hoarding (2 weeks)	Types of Animal Hoarding Hoarding Disasters	Readings

	Community Response	Discussion Assignment
4. Disaster Planning for Large Animals (2 weeks)	Disasters and Large Animals Considerations for Large Animals	Readings Assignment
5. Pandemics (2 weeks)	Pets and a Pandemic Reimagined animal welfare	Readings Discussion
6. The Cycle of Animal Disaster Response (3 weeks)	Mission Assignment Assessment Planning Process Rescue/Field Intake and Staging/Transport Feeding and Sheltering in Place Sheltering Re-Homing Demobilization	Readings Final Project

Evaluation Framework

Assignment	Weight	Grading Criteria
Projects (1)	50%	See grading rubrics in e-learning for detailed criteria. The final project will encompass completed learning objectives from throughout the course.
Discussions	25%	See grading rubric in e-learning for detailed criteria, requires substantive contributions to further the discussion and provide formative feedback to classmates.
Assignments	25%	See grading rubric in e-learning for detailed criteria, requires substantive thought and effort to proof comprehension of learning objectives.

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade	Grade Points

90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 -89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 – 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 77.9	C+	2.33
72.0 – 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Plagiarism ([as defined by the UF Student Honor Code](#)) will not be tolerated. Be sure to cite your sources and references and attribute any verbatim quotations included in your submissions and posts.

[UF Maples Center for Forensic Medicine Code of Conduct and Professionalism \(our Department\)](#)

Instructional Policy:

This course is part of the distance education program at the University of Florida. Instead of traditional lecture format, the medium for communication between course instructors, teaching assistants and students will be via Canvas e-learning. (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>)

Attendance: Students must participate in the online discussions, and are required to visit the course e-learning daily for important updates and announcements.

Additional information regarding attendance/absences can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Class Participation: Students are expected to constructively join in online discussions with appropriate preparation, to post interesting and relevant information on the class bulletin board, and to interact professionally with their classmates.

Performance Expectations: Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate level didactic course. Bulletin postings and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate. Students are required to think for themselves and will be expected to complete assignments that require the application of logic and reasoning skills when the answer may not be found in a book or the course notes.

Due Dates and Late Submissions: Pay close attention to the due dates posted in e-learning on your personal Dashboard and the Canvas Calendar for each assignment. Late submissions are eligible for up to 50% of the available points for each assignment.

This course is designed for working professionals like yourself. So we understand that sometimes life gets in the way of our best plans for juggling work, home, and school. If you anticipate you will likely miss a due date, request an extension in advance of the due date by sending an email through the Canvas Inbox to your instructors that explains the reason you need more time and when you expect to submit the work. Please title these posts clearly with "REQUEST EXTENSION FOR ASSIGNMENT 6A" (or whatever you need). Please avoid overuse of this option as it interferes with your classmate's ability to complete their own assignments.

NOTE: We honor most, but not all, requests for extensions.

Grade Changes: Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made. If you think an error has been made, you should email the instructor as soon as possible. Your entire assignment will then be re-graded.

Incomplete grades: Under special circumstances, if a student is unable to finish a course before the end of the semester we may be able to assign an incomplete grade. An incomplete grade is a non-punitive grade assigned at the discretion of the course instructor. In this course an incomplete grade may be assigned if 1/3rd or more of the course assignments have been completed and if the student has remained in communication with TA's and instructors throughout the course, or has made an effort to request an incomplete grade. If an incomplete grade is assigned, outstanding assignments must be completed by the end of the next semester. If the assignments are not completed in this time you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance

On how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>