

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON  
COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security

**Course Title:** Disasters in Film and Media

**Course Number:** 2235:385

**Course Credits:** 3 credit hours

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:**

Examines how contemporary culture perpetuates myths of natural and technological disasters. Students deconstruct and analyze reality from the myths in various types of media.

**Program Outcomes:**

Students will gain a better understanding of:

- the scientific process of various hazards
- Emergency Management fundamentals in relationship to hazards
- professionalism in Emergency Management
- roles of media in disasters
- knowledge of various media
- identifying widely believed disaster myths
- observing various forms of disaster culture
- contrasting roles of individuals and stereotypes in films
- how disaster myths impact emergency management decisions

**Assessment:**

Knowledge of scientific processes of various hazards will be demonstrated through assignments.

Emergency Management fundamentals (response, preparedness, recovery, and mitigation) will be demonstrated through assignments.

Professionalism in Emergency Management will be demonstrated through an oral presentation in the final project.

Data sources and their reliability will be demonstrated with the assignment and final project.

The utilization of technology and data will be demonstrated with the assignment and final project.

Utilization of case studies will be demonstrated with the assignment and final project.

**Course Outline:**

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Topic I: Hazard Types, Introduction to Media, Introduction to Disaster Movies

Topic II: Music and Disasters

Topic III: Television Reporting and Disasters

Topic IV: Documentaries

Topic V: Film Components, Terrorism

Topic VI: Disaster Communications, Extraterrestrial

Topic VII: Guest Speaker, Disaster and Crisis Communications

Topic VIII: Pandemic

Topic IX: Nuclear Accident

Topic X: Climate Change

Topic XI: Nuclear

Topic XII: Apocalypse

## Grading

A	2	94%
A-		90-93%
B+		88-89%
B		83-87%
B-		80-82%
C+		78-79%
C		73-77%
C-		70-72%
D+		68-69%
D		63-67%
D-		60-62%
F	\$:	59.9%

## **COURSE RATIONALE:**

This course will cover the fundamentals of various hazards and disasters in relationship to film and media. There are various types of media and many individuals receive their knowledge of hazards and disasters from the media, especially films. Emergency managers need to understand the basic scientific principles along with disaster mythology in order to communicate with experts and the public. This will aid in decision making along with expanding the student's knowledge.

Furthermore, the course is designed to promote critical thinking through applications which is a basis for learning rather than memorizing material.

## Special Accommodations:

If there are special circumstances which affect your learning in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. Accommodations can be arranged through the Office of Accessibility, located in Simmons Hall, 105 (972-7928)