

Complex Humanitarian Emergencies Courses 2023-2024

Please note this is a sample and not all courses are offered every year.

GH 565 (2): Epidemiological Methods in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Spring. Prerequisites: EPI 530, BIOS 500, and GH 565. This course covers epidemiologic methods used in complex humanitarian emergencies such as rapid assessment, surveillance, survey design (with a focus on cluster surveys) and analysis. In addition, the class includes other topics such as outbreaks in emergencies as well as practical sessions on anthropometry and field laboratory methods. Teaching methods combine lectures and case studies of recent humanitarian emergencies. Five-day intensive held over January Break.

GH 557 (2): Health in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Spring. Prerequisites: BIOS 500 and EPI 530. The course covers the technical and management principles that are the basis of planning, implementing, and evaluating health programs for acutely displaced populations in developing countries. It emphasizes refugees in camp situations. It includes modules on assessment, nutrition, epidemiology of major health problems, surveillance, and program management in the context of an international relief operation. Five-day intensive held over Spring Break. Offered every other year, with next offering Spring 2025. Must be taken in semester offered.

GH 578 (1): Mental Health in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Spring. Prerequisite: GH 565 and GH 557. This course covers essential principles necessary to understand and address mental health issues in complex humanitarian emergencies. Using epidemiological and ethnographic approaches, the course highlights: mental health surveys, outcome evaluation methods, best practices and evidence-based interventions for beneficiary populations, and preparation and training for emergency responders and aid workers. Monday and Tuesday of Spring Break.

GH 581 (1): Risk Communications for Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Fall. The objective of the course is to encourage and facilitate improved risk communication for public health emergencies among public health authorities and partner organizations through the building of risk communication core capacities as part of the surveillance and response requirements of the International Health Regulations (IHR). Weekend during Fall semester.

GH 587 (1): Preparedness and Planning in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Fall. This course covers the essential principles of emergency preparedness and planning in the international context. Students will become familiar with concepts of the Sphere standards, cluster system, Incident Command System (ICS), emergency operation plan development, and tabletop exercises. The common pitfalls and challenges of emergency preparedness and planning will be discussed. Students will have the opportunity to review an existing plan and tabletop exercise and provide input for their improvement. Half semester course beginning in October. Offered every other year; next offering Fall 2025.

GH 537 (1): Planning in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Emergencies

Spring. This course builds on students' knowledge of epidemiologic principles and health needs in complex humanitarian emergencies. It takes an applied epidemiological approach covering three essential components to sexual and reproductive health in complex humanitarian emergencies: program management, monitoring, and evaluation; policy and advocacy; and emerging issues and methods. The course will use a mix of lectures, discussions, and applied learning exercises to discuss how humanitarian conflict affects sexual and reproductive health outcomes, key guidelines and program priorities in the field, and areas of innovation and knowledge gaps. Half semester course beginning in January.

GH 538 (1): Food and Nutrition in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

Fall. Prerequisites: BIOS 500, EPI 530, and GH 565. Malnutrition during humanitarian emergencies, including acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, is very common. This course will discuss how organizations decide when, what type, and how much food to distribute during crisis. It also will address other programs that are used to prevent malnutrition, how organizations concerned with nutrition evaluate nutritional status in individuals and populations and the various types of feeding programs that are implemented in emergency situations. The course will include practical field exercises on nutrition as well as visits by guest practitioners from the field. Half semester course beginning in August.