

## BA in Management Program

### MGMT 213 Disaster Awareness & Relief Management

Spring 2026

**Instructor:** Prof. Raha Akhavan-Tabatabaei  
**Office:** SBS 1061  
**E-mail:** [akhavan@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:akhavan@sabanciuniv.edu)  
**Web:** SUCourse  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:**

Parinaz Kiavash [parinaz.kiavash@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:parinaz.kiavash@sabanciuniv.edu)  
Nilüfer Sayın [nilufer.sayin@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:nilufer.sayin@sabanciuniv.edu)

Type	Time	Days
Class	15:40 - 17:30	Thu

**Course Objective:**

This course consists of two modules.

**Module 1** focuses on personal preparedness and safety measures that every individual in the society needs to know, to be able to act safely, responsibly and efficiently during a disaster.

**Module 2** discusses the managerial and technical aspects of disaster management in the society. It aims at providing a comprehensive understanding of management principles in disaster relief, covering key terms and concepts including the phases of disaster management, i.e., preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation strategies. The module also examines the roles of stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, international aid organizations, and communities/volunteers, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration and coordination among them. Additionally, it delves into logistics and resource management in disaster response as well as other important topics

such as risk assessment and vulnerability analysis, the ethical and legal considerations that arise in disaster situations, post-disaster economic burden, the role of technology, and the psychological impacts of disasters on individuals and society. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of disasters, and the knowledge needed to respond to them effectively, addressing the multifaceted challenges involved in disaster relief management.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop a personal plan for disasters, including their personal kit, safety preparation of home and living areas, a communication plan with their family and other crucial measures to be taken before and during a disaster.
2. Understand the basic principles and practices of disaster relief management. Identify the stages of disaster management and the key activities associated with each stage.
3. Recognize the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in disaster relief efforts.
4. Analyze the social, ethical, technological, economic and cultural considerations that could arise in disaster situations.

### **Course Material:**

- Course lectures, supporting reading material and references will be posted on SUCourse each week after class.
- Suggested Textbook: Introduction to International Disaster Management, 3rd Edition, 2015, Damon Coppola, Elsevier Science and Technology.

### **Course Web:**

We will use SUCourse as our means of communication. The lecture materials, link to any recorded lectures and all the course announcements will be posted there. It is the students' responsibility to frequently check this page and keep themselves up to date with the announcements and assignments.

### Instructional Design:

This class will be taught through a combination of theoretical lectures and guest speaker presentations, as indicated on the Course Schedule table. The evaluation is based on weekly quizzes on the lecture topic of the day, two activities, and a final exam.

### Grading:

1. Quizzes	20%
2. Activity 1: Personal preparation	20%
3. Activity 2: Donation Campaign	20%
4. Final Exam	40%

### Requirements:

1. **Attendance:** attendance will be taken at each session and the students must be present in at least 80% of the sessions to be able to pass the course.
2. **Quizzes:** There will be *approximately* 10 to 14 unannounced quizzes during the course. Therefore, in most of the sessions you can expect a quiz from the contents of the lecture on the same day. ***There will be no make up for the quizzes.*** The lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped.
3. **Activity 1:** personal preparation for disasters: this activity is to be carried out individually. Based on the workshop given by Campus Security and AKUT Foundation during Module 1, the students are asked to prepare their plan including a personal kit, evacuation and communication plan, home/dorm heavy object fixing, etc.,. This activity is evaluated and graded by the representatives of Campus Security and AKUT Foundation. Detailed instructions will be announced on SUCourse along with the submission deadline and evaluation meetings schedule.
4. **Activity 2:** donation campaign: this activity is conducted in groups of up to 5 students. Each group should identify a community in need (within the framework of UN Sustainable Development Goals), assess and list the exact needs, set a donation target amount and create a plan to collect donations (either on campus or from family members, companies, etc), and after collection, sorting and packaging, deliver the donations to the community to fulfill (part of) the identified need. The team will make a short video of their donation campaign process including the end results, to submit on SUCourse for this activity.

5. **Final exam:** will be on the finals week and the schedule will be decided by Student Resources.
6. All submitted quizzes, project or activity reports and exams must demonstrate the student's own work. Project presentation (Activity 2) must directly reflect the team's work and participation of every member. Any suspicion to fraud will be handled according to the university regulations and may result in failing the course.
7. SUCourse and email are the official means of communication in this course, and it is the student's responsibility to review messages and posts frequently, and to upload the assignments on time.

Week	Topic	Lecturer	Assignment
1 – Feb 19	Introduction	Prof. Raha Akhavan	
2 – Feb 26	Phases of Disaster Management	Prof. Raha Akhavan	
3 – Mar 5	Campus Safety & Preparedness	Campus Security & SUAK	
4 – Mar 12	Personal Preparation for Disasters	AKUT Foundation	
<b>5 – Mar 19</b>	<b>Happy Bayram Holiday!</b>		
6 – Mar 26	Personal Preparation for Disasters	AKUT Foundation	
7 – Apr 2	Personal Preparation for Disasters	AKUT Foundation	
8 – Apr 9	Istanbul Preparedness Plan	Eng. Levent Gerdan	
9 – Apr 16	Organizational Management in Disasters	Dr. Ozan Duygulu	
<b>10 – Apr 23</b>	<b>Happy Holiday!</b>		<b>Activity 1</b>
11 – Apr 30	Ethical Aspects of Disasters	Dr. Ozan Duygulu	
12 – May 7	Humanitarian Supply Chains	Prof. Raha Akhavan	
13 – May 14	Technology and Disasters	Dr. Jose Escribano	
14 – May 21	Data Science and AI for Disaster Management	Prof. Raha Akhavan	<b>Activity 2</b>