



**BAKER COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**HLS 4050 Pandemics and Natural Disasters**  
**3 Semester Hours**

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**Student Learning Outcomes & Enabling Objectives**

1. Explore the history of pandemics across the globe.
  - a. Compare the definitions and differences between a “pandemic,” an “epidemic,” and an “endemic.”
  - b. Discuss how pandemics have shaped world history from the Middle Ages to the 21th century.
  - c. Examine the origins and effects of the COVID pandemic.
  - d. Describe the key components associated with preparing for, responding to, and recovering from, a pandemic.
  - e. Identify the three pillars of the U.S. National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza.
2. Explore the history of natural disasters throughout history and how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has evolved to address these incidents.
  - a. Explore major natural disasters and their effects.
  - b. Explain FEMA’s National Protection Framework and the National Disaster Recovery Framework.
  - c. Explain the history and role of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
3. Describe the circumstances under which FEMA declares a major disaster.
  - a. Explain the Stafford Act and how it helps states commit resources for natural disasters.
  - b. Explore the processes and effectiveness of early warning systems.
4. Discuss the challenges with developing effective emergency plans to serve special populations and groups.
  - a. Identify issues associated with emergency planning for people with disabilities, infants, children, and older adults.
  - b. Explore Disasters on Tribal lands and government response.
5. Compare the concepts of disaster “response” and disaster “recovery.”
  - a. Discuss effective and ineffective post disaster recovery efforts.
  - b. Explain how State, local, and Tribal governments can prepare in advance to set the stage for necessary strategic, operational, and tactical post-disaster recovery.
  - c. Explain the role of private actors in community emergency recovery.

6. Explore the effects of climate change on escalating natural disasters.
  - a. Explain the difference between “climate change” and “global warming.”
  - b. Explain how climate changes impact different types of natural disasters.
  - c. Discuss what each person on Earth can personally do to stop global warming and climate change.
  
7. Discuss the differences between “biological warfare” and “bioterrorism” and the use of bioweapons.
  - a. Discuss future biological threats and how our government is preparing for future attacks.
  - b. Describe the four goals the Biden Administration has proffered to improve America’s ability to respond to the next pandemic.

## **Big Ideas and Essential Questions**

### **Big Ideas**

- History of Pandemics
- History of Natural Disasters
- Government disaster declarations
- Emergencies and Special Populations
- Disaster response and recovery
- Future effects of climate change
- Biological warfare and future trends

### **Essential Questions**

1. How have pandemics historically evolved and impacted world affairs?
2. How has FEMA evolved to address natural disasters?
3. What is a government disaster declaration and its criteria?
4. How do emergency operations and recovery plans support special populations and tribal governments?
5. How does effective disaster response aid in shortening the timeframe of recovery?
6. How will the escalation of climate change increase natural disasters?
7. What are the future threats of bioterrorism?

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These SLOs are approved for experiential credit.

**Effective: Fall 2024**