

“Educating tomorrow’s leaders in disaster resilience & global humanitarian assistance”



Classes will be held at the
United States Institute of Peace

Applications due June 15
Open to:
Graduate Students
Upperclassmen in good academic standing



Students arrange their own
housing in the heart of
Washington D.C.

DRLS 6710

Institutions & Politics of Humanitarian Advocacy (3 credit)

July 1 – July 14, 2015

This course will introduce students to critical professional skills for humanitarian advocacy. We will explore the international and domestic politics of humanitarian decision-making; career paths in the field; practical tools for policy change, e.g. drafting policy memoranda and legislative proposals, creating coalitions, managing procurement etc.; and fundamental challenges such as civil-military and public-private cooperation, the intersection of diplomacy and humanitarianism, whole-community resilience, and "human security." The course will combine in-class seminars, field visits, guest lectures, and tabletop exercises. We will visit (or will interview senior representatives from) e.g. Congress, the Department of Homeland Security (including FEMA), the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and USAID; NGOs such as InterAction and the American Red Cross; and preeminent think tanks e.g. Brookings (Internal Displacement program) and CSIS (Humanitarian Crisis Response project). Students will be expected to draft a peer-reviewed advocacy paper that will reflect the professional requirements of change leadership in the humanitarian field: for instance in light of the current debate about the "post-Millennium Development Goals agenda."

DRLS 6720

Case Studies in Disaster Operations (3 credit)

July 15 – July 28, 2015

Why does the response to some disasters succeed while others fail? What recovery and relief practices result in rebuilding a more resilient community? How has social media changed disaster communications? What are the attributes of an effective disaster operations capability? This course will seek to answer these and other questions concerning domestic and international disaster operations through an examination of a series of case studies and informed discussions with disaster managers from government agencies, NGOs, voluntary organizations, donors, international financial institutions, and the business community. Taking full advantage of being in Washington, DC, guest speakers from FEMA/DHS, the World Bank, the Red Cross, the US Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Save the Children, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD), USAID/OFDA, and others will be invited to provide their perspectives on such recent disasters as Syria, the Ebola outbreak, Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, recent cyclones in the Philippines, the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Boston Marathon Bombings and more. A day trip to New York City to meet with disaster officials at the United Nations will also be planned.