Objective of course
- To provide students with an understanding of humanitarian operations by introducing the students to the context of humanitarian operations, the stakeholders and the strategies/activities, and the challenges in conducting research in humanitarian operations.
- To help students critique articles and developing new research ideas.
- To help students implement a research study with the potential to submit to a journal.

Prerequisites
Basic understanding of demand and supply issues in humanitarian operations.

Learning resources
Journal articles and select chapters/readings from text books. Articles indicated in the course schedule will be progressively distributed over the semester.

Pedagogy
The student will be exposed to seminal articles that have been selected based on the relevance to a domain of knowledge and/or important research methods. A significant component of the learning would be to review/critique empirical and analytical articles in Humanitarian Operations Management. The primary focus of such critique is to assess the logical and contextual appropriateness of the study. The process of critiquing would enable discovery and learning of the key subject areas.

Evaluation
Performance in the course will be evaluated as follows.

Article analysis and/or short presentation of the articles: (40%)
Every session will include discussion of multiple research articles that relate to a specific subject area in humanitarian operations. The discussion would involve brief summarization of the main topic (which should be familiar to all participants), a review/critique of the work with respect to related works, appropriateness of the research methods, and findings and limitations. The student needs to bring his/her own perspective on the ideas expressed in the research paper. A good review/critique poses interesting questions, cites additional literature, extends the models and stimulates further inquiry and class discussion.

Final Exam: (20%)  
There will be a cumulative final exam covering all assigned articles and in-class discussions. The test will aim to test the student’s ability to formulate and understand research problems and design and investigate approaches to find answers to the issues of interest. Taking good notes of all readings and lectures can be very helpful in doing well in this exam!

Term paper: (40%)  
Participants will submit an individual term paper based on an analytical/empirical research. Each student is encouraged to plan early about the paper and engage in data collection or model formulation by the second quarter of the semester. Formulating a model, or collecting and analyzing
data on a topic of one’s individual interest can be very useful in effective learning. The term paper should be a short empirical/analytical research note, consisting of a brief description of the research question, a small literature review highlighting the issues of interest, a statement of research methodology, model and analysis, and a discussion of key findings and conclusions. The paper need not have the same level of rigor and comprehensiveness as that of a published analytical/empirical research paper. However, there should be the potential to publish in a good academic journal.

The deadline for the term paper proposals will be in the week after the last session of the course; the deadline to complete the papers will be 8 weeks after that. If the term paper is not completed in 8 weeks then an incomplete grade will be assigned; the incomplete grade can be revised if the paper is submitted within 16 weeks of the last session of the course. Failure to submit the term paper within 16 weeks will result in a failing grade.

Course Schedule:
The following course schedule will be maintained. Instructor may modify the schedule as necessary to enhance learning effectiveness.

Session 1: Introduction to humanitarian operations
Readings:

Session 2: Information Management
Readings:

**Session 3: Coordination and Collaboration in relief supply chain**

Readings:

**Session 4: Procurement for Humanitarian Operations Management**

Readings:

**Session 5: Facility Location in Humanitarian Operations Management**

Readings:

**Session 6: Transportation and Logistics in Humanitarian Operations Management**

Readings:


**Session 7: Performance Assessment**


**Session 8: Organization Structure**

Readings:


**Session 9: Funding and Donation Management**

Readings:


Session 10: Excellence in Humanitarian Operations

Readings:


(Note: Any of the above sessions can be substituted with one/two sessions on alternate themes in case it is felt appropriate!)