



UIW

Master of
Public Administration

Summer 2022 MPA Course Offering

POLS 5420 Seminar in Crisis Management (Option-Core/Elective)

Instructor: Dr. Robert Schuhmann

Delivery: Zoom

Days: Wednesdays

Time: 3:10-6:00pm

Brief Course Description:

As Boin et al. notes, “crisis management has become a defining feature of contemporary governance” (i). There are times when organizations seem to operate in a very stable environment (and some do), while others seem to operate in constant turbulence (and some do). Regardless of the organizational environmental “norm,” all organizations and the professionals who inhabit them can/are impacted by crisis. This course will explore the nature of crisis, what constitutes a “crisis,” the political risks and opportunities, and examine leadership, cooperation, stakeholders and conflict in times of crisis. Crises provide stress-tests on institutions, systems, and leaders. Citizens rely heavily on government officials to help understand, explain, and manage these difficult environments. As such, an emphasis in this class is placed on understanding many important variables that impact the way that government officials and citizens understand their institutional and organizational environment in ways that influence how they manage, and navigate, their professional world.

In the end, this is not an “emergency preparedness” class. Instead, we seek to unpack what constitutes a crisis and how organizations and officials respond so that we may be better able to manage our own organizations in these challenging times.