

**Instructor:**

Dr. Jim Bowring: <http://www.cs.cofc.edu/~bowring/>

Office: J.C. Long (LONG) 222

Tel: 843.953.0805

Google Voice: 843.608.1399

Google Chat: bowring@gmail.com

E-mail: [BowringJ@cofc.edu](mailto:BowringJ@cofc.edu) with SUBJECT = FSYM117

Office hours: TR: 11:00 – 12:00; AND 3:00 – 4:30, by appointment, or drop by!

**Class place and time:**

Classroom: JC LONG 220      Time: TR 1:40 – 2:55 AM

**Catalog description:****FYSM 117-001 Designing Responses to Large-Scale Natural Disasters**

Students will gain first-hand experience working in teams to propose solutions to the complex, interdisciplinary problem of creating national response strategies for natural disasters. We will emphasize computational thinking and "imagineering." Students receive training in skills such as library research, electronic communications, and web design. Teams are encouraged to be self-directed. Students will be responsible for developing and then articulating their plans in a public presentation. Students must have unlimited access to a portable, WWW-browser enabled and connected device. (This means laptop OR PDA OR phone, etc.) Completion of this FYSM fulfills three hours of elective credit.

**Resources:**

- 1) CofC: [Career Center](#), [Cistern Online](#), [Addlestone Library](#), [Center for Student Learning](#)
- 2) Sun Open Office available at <http://www.openoffice.org/index.html>
- 3) Google Group for this class: <http://groups.google.com/group/fysm117>
- 4) Google Documents: <http://docs.google.com>
- 5) Google blogs: [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)
- 6) Google web sites: <https://sites.google.com/>

**Learning objectives:**

My primary objective is your success. There are three primary learning objectives for this course as established by the College:

1. Students will demonstrate an acceptable level of familiarity with the College library, information technology resources, the Center for Student Learning, the Academic Advising and Planning Center, the Career Center and other appropriate academic resources and student support services;
2. Students will acquire and use appropriate critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques in a variety of contexts; and
3. Students will gain expertise in collaborative learning, aka team-work.

**Class Organization:**

I have decided that the large-scale natural disaster for this semester will be the pandemic H1N1, otherwise known as the swine flu. The class will be divided into small teams. Each team will work to solve an aspect of the response design. In the final weeks of the semester, the teams will work together to assemble their solutions into a unified design for publication and presentation.

**Deliverables:**

In the spirit of minimizing the transmission of disease, this course is paperless. Each team will maintain at a minimum a website and a blog that will chronicle their progress, report their research results, pose questions, provide documentation of sources, etc. I expect updates for each class meeting and a professional, thoughtful organization and presentation. The final presentation will be by the whole class, organized by team expertise and utilizing any technologies you deem appropriate.

**Push the envelope:**

Have a wild idea or want to invite an outside speaker or want training in a specific technology or want to use a specific technology or ... just ask!

**Attendance and class participation:**

You will be working in teams and meeting during class hours in addition to outside of class. Your attendance and active participation will lead to your success and to the success of your team and of the class.

**Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability and approval to receive accommodations through [SNAP Services](#), please contact me outside of class.

**Student Conduct:**

I expect you to abide by [The College of Charleston Student Handbook](#), which includes sections on conduct and the Honor Code. If you have a question about how to interpret the Honor Code, ask before acting!

**Grading scale:**

Superior (A); Very Good (B+); Good (B); Fair (C+); Acceptable (C); Not Acceptable (F)

**Evaluation schedule:**

- 05% resume vetted by [Career Center](#)
- 45% weekly contributions and progress reports
- 50% final project and presentations