

Course Syllabus
Introduction to Emergency Management
Fall 2014
EADP 3010.001
Monday 6:00-8:50 p.m.
TH 120

Instructor: Dr. Gary Webb
Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00 p.m. (and by appointment)
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Course Overview

Disasters seem to be occurring with greater frequency and more severity both in the United States and around the world. In recent years, we have seen numerous natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes; destructive technological disasters, including nuclear accidents, oil spills, and chemical plant explosions; and devastating human-induced tragedies, including terrorist attacks, riots, and school shootings. Faced with such diverse, challenging, and frightening threats, human societies must equip themselves to face the unexpected and cope with the consequences of large-scale catastrophes. The field of emergency management is aimed at doing just that.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the field of emergency management. Course material will facilitate that introduction by:

1. Exploring the history of the profession of emergency management and the field of disaster research.
2. Introducing students to the all-hazards approach to emergency management and sensitizing them to the wide range of threats facing society today.
3. Introducing students to the concept of comprehensive emergency management and the four phases of disasters: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
4. Exploring future challenges and opportunities in the field of emergency management.

Course Readings

Required Text:

Phillips, Brenda D., David M. Neal, and Gary R. Webb. 2012. *Introduction to Emergency Management* Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Course Requirements

Student grades for this course will be based on each student's performance on three (3) major exams and one (1) disaster case study.

Exams

There will be three required exams in this course, each of which will test students' knowledge of material covered in the relevant section. For example, the first exam (tentatively scheduled for *Monday, September 22*) will consist of all material from class discussions and required readings up to that point; the second exam (tentatively scheduled for *Monday, October 27*) will consist of material from class discussions and required readings covered after the first exam; and the third exam (scheduled for *Monday, December 8, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.*) will consist of all material from class discussions and required readings that are covered after the second exam (i.e., the final exam is not "comprehensive" in nature).

Each exam will contain 35 multiple choice questions, 1 short list question, and 1 essay question. The relative weight of each type of question for each exam is as follows:

35 multiple choice	70 points
1 short list question	5 points
<u>1 essay question</u>	<u>25 points</u>
Total	100 points x 3 exams= 300 points

Disaster Case Study

There is one required paper in this course. It will be evaluated in terms of organization, clarity of presentation (including spelling and grammar), and thoroughness. Each student is required to identify a disaster of interest, conduct online research about the event, write a short case study, and discuss the case in class. The report (which should be between three and five typed, double-spaced pages) must answer the following questions: (1) What was the event, when and where did it occur, and what were its major impacts? (2) How prepared was the community for the event? (3) What agencies or organizations were involved in responding to the event, and what are some of the challenges they faced? (4) What actions has the community taken to better prepare itself for future disasters? The case studies are due and will be discussed in class on *Monday, November 24*.

Course Grades

To summarize, course requirements and their relative weight for grading purposes are as follows:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
<u>Disaster Case Study</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	350 points

Student grades will be calculated on the following scale:

<u>Points earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>
315-350	A
280-314	B
245-279	C
210-244	D
0-209	F

Late Assignments

Disaster Case studies will not be accepted after the due date.

Missed Exams

Only in extenuating circumstances, such as family crisis, illness or injury sufficient to require medical care (which can be documented), participation in a university sponsored event which requires the student's absence from campus on the day of the exam, and similar reasons beyond the student's control, will make-up provisions apply. Advise the instructor in advance of absences due to such matters. If a make-up examination is allowed, an alternative exam (both in terms of substance and format) will be administered on the last day of finals week.

*Tentative Course Outline**

Week 1 August 25

Topics

Introductions and Course Overview
History of Emergency Management

Readings: Chapter 1

Week 2 September 1

Labor Day—No Class

Week 3 September 8

Topics

Defining Disaster
All-hazards Emergency Management
Comprehensive Emergency Management

Readings: Chapter 2

Week 4 September 15

Topics

New and Emerging Hazards and Disasters

Readings: Chapter 4

Week 5 September 22

Exam 1

Week 6 September 29

Topics

Preparedness

Readings: Chapter 6

Week 7 October 6

Topics

Planning

Readings: Chapter 7

Week 8 October 13

Topics

Response

Readings: Chapter 8

Week 9 October 20

Topics

Planning, Response, and Technological Disasters: The case of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Week 10 October 27

Exam 2

Week 11 November 3

Topics

Recovery

Readings: Chapter 9

Week 12 November 10

Topics

Mitigation

Readings: Chapter 10

Week 13 November 17

Topics

Future Challenges and Opportunities in Emergency Management

Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice

Readings: Chapters 5 and 13

Week 14 November 24

******Disaster Case Studies Due and Discussion******

Week 15 December 1

Topics

Conclusions and Course Wrap-Up

Week 16 Final Exam Week

******Final Exam, Monday, December 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m., TH 120******

* It is important to note that this course outline is tentative and may be changed by the instructor. In the event changes to the outline are made, students will be notified in class. It is important, therefore, that students attend class to learn about important changes.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Department of Public Administration

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Notice of this policy shall be given in all public administration classes each semester, and written copies shall be available in the public administration office.

Definitions

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism “as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying other’s tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one’s own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.”

Penalties

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of “F” in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the departmental faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, papers, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Curriculum and Degree Programs Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Curriculum and Degree Programs Committee in the case of either graduate or undergraduate students. This committee, acting as an agent of the Department, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Appeals

Students may appeal and decision under this policy by following the procedure laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

POLICY ON DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The Department of Public Administration, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request during regular office hours before the 12th class day of regular semesters (4th class day of summer sessions).

POLICY ON LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES IN THE CLASSROOM

The classroom setting at an institution of higher learning is intended to serve as a venue that permits the transfer of knowledge and facilitates the sharing of ideas. As such, it is imperative that any distractions from these stated objectives be avoided and kept to a minimum. Potential disruptions include modern electronic devices such as laptop computers and cell phones.

Students are allowed to take notes on personal laptop computers to enhance the learning process, but they should not activate their internet browsers during class or use computers for non-academic purposes (as this diverts attention from the lecture/discussion for both the student using it and others nearby). Students should also avoid using cell phones to search the Internet or text while class is in session.

Exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the faculty only and may occur if searching the Internet is necessary to find additional information or facts related to the subject being covered on that particular day.

POLICY ON STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

FALL 2014

IMPORTANT CLASS DATES

AUGUST 25, MONDAY

First class day

SEPT 1, MONDAY

Labor Day-No classes University Closed

SEPT 8, MONDAY

Census date: last day to drop a course and receive refund. Drops after this date require instructor's written consent.

OCT 3, FRIDAY

Last day to drop a course with a grade of W for courses that a student is not passing
After this date a grade of WF may be recorded.

OCT 4, SATURDAY

Beginning this date, instructors may drop students with grade of WF for non-attendance.

NOV 3, MONDAY

Last day to **DROP A COURSE** this semester with consent of instructor

NOV 10, Monday

Beginning this date a student *who qualifies* may request a grade of "I," incomplete, a non-punitive grade given **only if** a student (1) is passing, (2) has justifiable reason why the work cannot be completed on schedule; **and** (3) arranges with the instructor to complete the work.

NOV 21, FRIDAY

Last day for an instructor to drop a student with a grade of WF for non-attendance

NOV 27-30, THURSDAY-SUNDAY

Thanksgiving Break

NOV 29 - DEC 5, SATURDAY-FRIDAY

Pre-finals week

DEC 5, FRIDAY

Reading Day. No classes.

DEC 6 - 12 SATURDAY-FRIDAY

Final examinations

DEC 12-13, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Commencement schedule - TBA