Course Syllabus

Disaster Response and Recovery
Spring 2015
EADP 3045.001
Tuesday 2:00-4:50 p.m.
Wooten Hall 212

Instructor: Dr. Gary Webb
Office Hours: TR 12:00-1:30 p.m. (and by appointment)
Room 204K Chilton Hall
Telephone: (940) 369-5815
E-mail: gary.webb@unt.edu

Course Overview
Disasters are a regular feature of modern living. They stem largely from the tendency of human societies to settle in hazard-prone areas, our reliance on high-risk technologies, and long-standing and emerging political conflicts. In recent years, disasters seem to be increasing in number; worsening in terms of financial, physical, and social impacts; and growing in complexity. Despite their best efforts to mitigate against or try to prevent disasters from happening, human societies must always maintain and constantly improve their capacities to respond to and recover from large-scale events.

Course Objectives
The primary objectives of this course are to improve students’ knowledge of the response and recovery phases of disaster, familiarize them with the typical problems and challenges that arise during these phases, and suggest strategies for more effectively responding to and recovering from future disasters. Course material will facilitate the development of those skills by:

1. Identifying the diverse and complex range of hazards confronting human societies today and in the future.
2. Discussing the challenges involved in warning populations of impending threats, promoting appropriate protective actions, mobilizing necessary resources, and coordinating overall response operations.
3. Defining the recovery process, identifying factors that promote or impede community recovery from disaster, and examining the issue of social vulnerability and its impact on recovery outcomes.
4. Exposing students to principles of effective emergency management derived from both empirical research and lessons learned from previous disasters.

Course Readings

Required Text:

Additional Readings:
Throughout the semester students will also be required to read assigned journal articles. These are indicated by an asterisk (*) on the course outline and are accessible online through the UNT library and the course site on Blackboard.

Course Requirements
Student grades for this course will be based on each student’s performance on three (3) major exams and one (1) after-action report.
Exams
There will be three required 90 minute 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 Tuesday, February 24) will consist of all material from class discussions and required readings up to that point; the second exam (tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 31) will consist of material from class discussions and required readings covered after the first exam; and the third exam (scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 1:30-3:30 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 questions 70 points
- 1 short list question 5 points
- 1 essay question 25 points
Total 100 points x 3 exams = 300 points

After-Action Report
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 an after-action report, and deliver a presentation to the class. The report (which should be between five and seven typed, double-spaced pages) must include: (1) a description of the event, including its primary impacts and the various agencies and organizations involved in the response effort; and (2) identify at least five key lessons learned from the event. The reports are due Tuesday, April 28 and will be presented in class on either April 28 or May 5.

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
- After-Action Report 50 points
Total 350 points

Student grades will be calculated on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points earned</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>315-350</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280-314</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245-279</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210-244</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-209</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Assignments
After-action reports 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, Thursday, May 14 at 8:00 a.m. No student can make up more than one exam. In the event that a student misses more than one exam, a grade of zero will be assigned for the second missed exam. If a student is granted a make-up exam and misses the scheduled make-up exam, a grade of zero will be assigned for the missed exam.
**Tentative Course Outline***

**Week 1 January 20**
*Topics*
Introductions and Course Overview
*Readings:* None

**Week 2 January 27**
*Topics*
Guiding Assumptions
Research and the Practice of Emergency Management
Types of Disasters and Their Impacts
Future Disasters and Response Challenges
*Readings:* Drabek Chapters 1 and 2

**Week 3 February 3**
*Topics*
Human Response to Disaster
Disaster Myths: Their Sources and Consequences
*Readings:* Drabek Chapters 3 and 6

**Week 4 February 10**
*Topics*
Hurricane Katrina and the Consequences of Disaster Myths

**Week 5 February 17**
*Topics*
Disaster Warnings
The Warning Process
Characteristics of Effective Warnings
*Readings:* Drabek Chapters 4 and 5

**Week 6 February 24**
*Exam 1*

**Week 7 March 3**
*Topics*
Response Demands, Activities, and Roles and Responsibilities
EOC Design and Function
*Readings:* Drabek Chapters 7 and 8

**Week 8 March 10**
*Topics*
National Response Framework
National Incident Management System
Incident Command System
Week 9 March 17  
*Spring Break—No Class*

Week 10 March 24  
*Topics*  
Flexibility in Emergency Management  
Competing Models of Emergency Management  

Week 11 March 31  
*Exam 2*

Week 12 April 7  
*Topics*  
Disaster Recovery  
Dimensions of Recovery  
Stages of Recovery  
Factors Affecting Recovery  

Week 13 April 14  
*Topics*  
Social Vulnerability to Disaster  
Sources of Vulnerability  
Differential Disaster Impacts  
Recovery Challenges  

Week 14 April 21  
*Topics*  
Holistic Disaster Recovery  
Recovery Plans  
Mitigation Challenges and Opportunities  
*Readings:* Drabek Chapter 11

Week 15 April 28  
***After-Action Reports Due and Student Presentations***

Week 16 May 5  
***Student Presentations***

Week 17 May 12  
***Final Exam 1:30pm-3:30pm***

* 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.
## Important Class Dates

### Spring 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1-2, 2015</td>
<td>Winter Break (no classes; university closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19, 2015</td>
<td>MLK Day (Classes do not meet; university offices closed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19-23, 2015</td>
<td>Student-requested schedule changes may be made during add/drop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2015</td>
<td>First Class Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23, 2015</td>
<td>Last day for change of schedule other than a drop. (Last day to add a class.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3 - April 7, 2015</td>
<td>Students may drop a course with written consent of instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2, 2015</td>
<td>Last day for change in pass/no pass status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2, 2015</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university with a grade of W for courses a student is not passing. After this date a grade of WF may be recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3 - April 4, 2015</td>
<td>Instructors may drop students with a grade of WF for nonattendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16-22, 2015</td>
<td>Spring Break - Classes do not meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16, 2015</td>
<td>Spring Break - University offices closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20, 2015</td>
<td>Beginning this date a student who qualifies may request a grade of I, incomplete. (See &quot;Grading system&quot; in the Academics section of this catalog.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2-8, 2015</td>
<td>Pre-finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 2015</td>
<td>Last Class Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 2015</td>
<td>Reading Day (no classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9-15, 2015</td>
<td>Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 2015</td>
<td>Doctoral and Master’s Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2015</td>
<td>Undergraduate Commencement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Please complete the SETE evaluation for this course between 4/20 and 5/8.
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.