

EMDS 5615
Environmental Planning & Hazards

Instructor: Dr. Elyse Zavar

Class Meetings: Wednesday 6:00-8:50 PM in ECB 120

Office Hours: Mon 12-1:30 & Wed 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment

Office: Chilton Hall, Room 397F (located in the Social Work Department suite)

Phone: 940-565-2574

Email: elyse.zavar@unt.edu

Course Overview

Introduction to environmental planning and policy at the federal, state and local government levels. Designed to help students develop a working knowledge of basic planning and policy concepts, methods, institutions and issues. Emphasis is given to the linkage between environmental degradation and vulnerability to hazards.

Course Objectives

Students will acquire a graduate-level understanding of the practice and research related to environmental planning with an emphasis on critical analysis and applied problem-solving techniques appropriate for managing hazards.

Required Materials

- Wisner, Blaikie, Cannon, & Davis. 2004. *At Risk: Natural Hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters* 2nd ed.
 - ISBN: 9780415252164
 - Partially available online: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/670_72351.pdf
- Colten, C. 2005. *Unnatural Metropolis Wrestling New Orleans from Nature*
 - ISBN: ISBN: 9780807132005
- Additional readings will be assigned and posted on the course website.

Course Policies

Professional behavior is expected from all students, which includes silenced electronic devices for the duration of class, arriving to class on time, staying through the duration of class, and being respectful to your fellow classmates, instructor, and guests. Any disruptive behavior such as side conversations, reading, sleeping, or misappropriate electronic device use (i.e. texting), will not be tolerated.

Email is the best contact method and I generally respond within 24-hours during the week. Check your UNT email regularly for updated course information. When sending an email, include a subject line, greeting, the course, section number, and sign it with your name. For help with writing professional emails, visit <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/effective-e-mail-communication>.

If necessary, you can turn in an assignment outside of class time by bringing it to the EMDS department located in Chilton Hall 122 during regular office hours (9am-5pm). The assignment must be timestamped by the assistant at the front desk and placed in my mailbox. To avoid losing points for a late submission, the assignment must be timestamped; otherwise, I will mark the assignment based on the day I receive it from my mailbox.

Grading Scale

A: 90% or greater

C: 70-79.9%

F: 0-59.9%

B: 80-89.9%

D: 60-69.9%

Your grades in this course are earned, at the end of the semester I only report earned credit. I will not add any points or tenths of a point to your grade. I will not respond to any emails at the end of the semester asking for unearned points to boost your grade.

Grading

Critical Discussion Lead: 20 points

Discussion Lead Reflection Paper: 15 points

Discussion Participation: 35 points

Final Paper & Presentation: 25 points

Enthusiasm and Camaraderie: 5 points

Critical Discussions Lead

Working in small teams (2-3), each group must facilitate a group discussion on the assigned reading from Wisner et al. for that week. Additionally, teams must select one peer reviewed journal article published within the past five years on a topic related to the assigned book chapter. I expect teams to email me the selected article in pdf format at minimum one week prior to their scheduled presentation date; I will post readings on blackboard for the class. The format of the discussion is up to each group, but should include the following components: brief explanation of who the authors are; synthesis of the main ideas of the readings; identification of key theories/arguments/findings; links to other readings/course concepts; and thought-provoking questions to initiate discussion with the class.

Discussion Lead Reflection Paper

After facilitating a class discussion, each student must complete in a 500-word reflective paper summarizing the main ideas of the discussion. The paper needs to focus on the discussion held in class, not just the content of the readings, and should include key arguments made and any points of agreement or dissent by the class. Also include a couple students identifying how the work was divided between each team member and assess your teammates' contribution to discussion. Please format the typed paper with: Times New Roman font size 12, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, stapled, no cover page, with the student name in the upper right corner. This paper is due at the beginning of class the week following the team facilitated the in-class discussion.

Weekly Discussion Participants

I expect each student to participate in the weekly discussions which means each student must be prepared for class. Preparedness includes read all assignments prior to class; being able to summarize key points from the readings, and identifying points made by the authors that you agree, disagree, or question. In order to participate, students must be in class. Roll will be taken daily. You can have one unexcused absence during the semester with no consequences, additional unexcused absences will result in point loss.

Final Paper

Inspired by Colten's (2005) work in New Orleans, students will research the environmental history of one U.S. city and write a 15-20 page paper examining the land management, policies, people, and hazards of that area. Resources to aid in the research of this paper will be presented throughout the semester including library resources. Students will give a PowerPoint presentation over their research project during Week 15. The paper is due during the Registrar's Final Exam Period for this course.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES

End of the Semester Evaluations

Required: The dates students can complete the SPOT assessment are **the final two weeks of the semester**. This is your opportunity to evaluate the instructor. Students can complete the on-line course evaluation at my.unt.edu

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy and Definitions

Department and University regulations regarding academic honesty will be strictly enforced. The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline (www.unt.edu/csrr) 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.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. A student caught cheating or plagiarizing, or knowingly assisting, will receive a zero on the assignment and an “F” for the course. I also will report the student(s) to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review.

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 Emergency Management and Disaster Science 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 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.

Course Calendar

(Subject to change with warning)

**denotes week with discussion lead*

Week 1: (Aug 29) Course Introductions

- Syllabus
- Course Expectations
- Overview of Environmental Policy & Hazards

For next class: Read Birkland and Waterman 2008; Burby 1999; and start Wisner et al. Part I

Week 2: (Sept 5) Federal Policy & Local Environmental Planning

- Review Federal Policies
 - Critique (Birkland and Waterman 2008)
- Recommended planning changes (Burby 1999)

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Part I

Week 3: (Sept 12) Disaster Theory I

- Conventional views of disaster
- Vulnerability
- PAR model

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Chp 4 and assigned reading

Week 4: (Sept 19) Famine and natural hazards*

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Chp 5 and assigned reading

Week 5: (Sept 26) Biological hazards*

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Chp 6 and assigned reading

Week 6: (Oct 3) Floods*

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Chp 7 and assigned reading

Week 7: (Oct 10) Coastal storms*

For next class: Read Wisner et al. Chp 8 and assigned reading

Week 8: (Oct 17) Earthquakes and volcanoes*

For next class: Start brainstorming city/topic for your final paper

Week 9: (Oct 24) Writing Workshop

For next class: Read Wisner Chp et al. 9; Zavar and Hagelman 2018

Week 10: (Oct 31) Towards a Safer Environment

- Library resource instruction

For next class: Read Colten pages xv-76

Week 11: (Nov 7) Introduction to New Orleans and the early history

For next class: Read Colten pages 77-139

Week 12: (Nov 14) Social Injustice & Environmental Management

Week 13: Nov 21: Writing Workshop

For next class: Read Colten pages 140-192

Week 14: (Nov 28) Managing Southern Louisiana environments & hazards

Week 15: (Dec 5) Presentations

Final Exam Paper due in hardcopy by Wed, Dec 12 by 9pm.