

EADP 3035
Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness

Instructor: Dr. Elyse Zavar

Class Meetings: 001 M 2-4:50 pm in Business Leadership Building (BLB) 035

Office Hours: M 12-1:30pm, W 4-5:30pm , or by appointment

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Phone:

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Course Overview

This course provides an overview of mitigation and preparedness within the field of emergency management. Throughout the semester we move from discussing specific hazards and their characteristics to exploring techniques that can be used to minimize potential impacts from these hazards. Hands-on assignments introduce students to government roles, programs, and guidance on mitigation and preparedness at federal, state, and local levels.

Course Objectives

- Explore the causes and impacts of meteorological, hydrological, geological, and manmade hazards.
- Outline strategies that can be undertaken to mitigate loss of life and property from multiple hazards.
- Examine the roles of federal, state, and local governments in administering mitigation and preparedness programs.
- Identify, profile, and assess hazard risk and vulnerability as necessary for hazard mitigation and preparedness planning.
- Practice data analysis and technical writing skills.
- Utilize FEMA's Mitigation Plan Guidance to review local hazard mitigation plans.

Required Materials

All assigned readings are required and due dates are listed on the course calendar. Portions of the required readings are meant to augment, not mirror, the lectures and class discussions- which means keep up with the readings regardless of how much time is devoted to them on any one class day.

- Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness: An Introductory Text for Emergency Management and Planning Professionals. (2017). Schwab, A.K., Sandler, D., and Brower, D.J. CRC Press, Second Edition. ISBN#9781466595569
- Additional and supplemental readings will be posted on Blackboard.

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 inappropriate electronic device use (i.e. texting), will not be tolerated. Laptops/tablets are welcomed in the classroom for note taking or in-class assignments only. Students using computers must sit in the back two rows of the class to minimize distraction for other students and disable their internet browsers. If you do not own a laptop, you may check one for free for a 4-hour time period through 24 Commons, First Floor of Willis Library: <https://www.library.unt.edu/24-commons>

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. By practicing your email communication with your instructors and fellow classmates now, you'll be more prepared for your careers after college. 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
B: 80-89.9%

C: 70-79.9%
D: 60-69.9%

F: 0-59.9%

Grading

5% Assignment 1: Stop Disasters Game: Challenges in Mitigation and Preparedness
15% Assignment 2: Local Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
20% Final Project
25% Midterm Exam
25% Final Exam
10% Attendance & Participation

Assignment 1: Stop Disasters Game: Challenges in Preparedness and Mitigation.

Studies suggest that game-based learning can serve as a useful educational tool for teaching new concepts and ideas to various populations. For this assignment students will play and write a review of the online computer game, "Stop Disasters Game." This assignment is due Sept 25, 2017 at the beginning of class; late work will incur a 10% per 24-hour period deduction. Email assignments will **not** be accepted.

Assignment 2: Local Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

You will be responsible for completing a risk assessment on a single hazard for a county of your choice. This assignment is due at the beginning of class. Student will need to bring a draft of their assessment to class in order to participate in the in-class activity on Oct 23. Final assignment is due Oct 30 at the beginning of class. Late work will incur a 10% per 24-hour period deduction.

Final Project

In this class, you will have the opportunity to apply the concepts and materials covered in this course to review a local or state hazard mitigation plan. The objectives of this project are to (1) demonstrate thorough understanding of the basic requirements of a plan, (2) gain experience reviewing a plan, (3) gain exposure to what makes a strong plan versus what makes a weak plan, (4) enhance written and verbal communication skills, and (5) gain experience working in a team setting. Due Dec 4, 2017 at the beginning of class; late work will incur a 10% per 24-hour period deduction.

Exams

Material for exams will be taken from lecture presentations, class discussions, readings, and activities. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essays. Missed exams can only be made-up with appropriate documentation (*i.e.* doctor's note) and an acceptable reason (*i.e.* illness, death in the family, university-sponsored travel). The student must contact the instructor as soon as possible to schedule a make-up exam and the exam must be taken no later than 1 week from the original test date or they will be recorded as a zero. Unexcused missed exams will result in a grade of zero.

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is necessary for your success in this course. This course moves quickly and it is difficult to catch up once you begin to fall behind. Built into the grade is an expectation for student participation in activities. I expect you to arrive to class prepared and on time. I will deduct points for late arrival, early departure, lack of preparedness, or minimal participation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate as all material covered in class is important. As part of class participation, you are responsible to photograph and post one picture of a mitigation project you've observed to our class Blackboard site by the final exam. Include a brief (one sentence) identification and the location of the project.

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)

Week 1: Introduction to Course (Aug 28)

- Review of Hazard and Disasters
- What is Mitigation and Preparedness?

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapters 1-3

Register for SHELDUS (www.sheldus.org)

Select county & hazard for risk assessment

Week 2: No class Sept 4 (Labor Day)

Week 3: Introduction to Hazards by Type (Sept 11)

- Notify instructor of county selected for the risk assessment assignment (in class)
- Weather-related hazards & Climatological hazards

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 4

Week 4: Hazards Continued (Sept 18)

- Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Volcanoes, Slides/flows, Erosion/Subsidence.
- People causing Geologic hazards

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 5: Focus on Sections 5.1 and 5.2

Week 5: Technological Hazards (Sept 25)

- Overview of Tech Hazards especially in U.S.
- All-Hazards Approach

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 12

Assignment 1

Week 6: Mitigation and Preparedness Tools & Techniques I (Oct 2)

- Assignment 1 Due beginning of class
- Structural mitigation (engineering)

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 12

Week 7: Mitigation and Preparedness Tools & Techniques II (Oct 9)

- Form Project Groups in Class
- Non-structural mitigation
- Exam Review

Week 8: Midterm Exam (Oct 16)

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 10

Draft of Assignment 2

Week 9: Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (Oct 23)

- Bring a Draft of Your Assignment 2 to class on this day.
- Form Project Groups in Class

Assignments due next class: Assignment 2

Read Schwab Chapters 6.1-6.4

Week 10: Preparing and Reviewing Plans Workshop (Oct 30)

- Notify instructor what plan you want to evaluate in class
- Assignment 2 Due

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 7, Stafford Act (Blackboard) & Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (Blackboard)

Week 11: Role of the Federal, State and Local Government in Mitigation (Nov 6)

- Evolution of federal/state management
- FEMA, NFIP & federal programs
- State level mitigation & planning

Assignments due next class: Individual Plan Review (both sections)

Week 12: Preparing and Reviewing Plans II (Nov 13)

- Individual Plan Review Due at the beginning of class (*Be sure to turn in both sections)
- Work on Group Plan Checklist

Assignments due next class: read Schwab Chapter 11 and THIRA Summary (Blackboard)

Week 13: Preparedness Policy, Planning, & THIRAs (Nov 20)

- Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Preparedness overview & programs

Assignments due next class: read James Schwab (2010) Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning (Blackboard)

Week 14: Building a Culture of Resilience (Nov 27)

- Final Exam Review

Assignments due next class: Group Final Reports

Week 15: Class Presentations/ Review (Dec 4)

- Group Final Reports Due

Assignments due next class: upload mitigation photo to Blackboard

Final Exam Monday, Dec 11 from 1:30-3:30 pm.