EMDS 5615: Environmental Planning & Hazards

Instructor Contact

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Phone Number: 940-565-2574
Office Hours: By appointment; student drop in hours Wed 10-11:30am
Email: elyse.zavar@unt.edu

Communication Expectations: Canvas is our learning management system and all assignments, lectures, grades and course-related material will be communicated through Canvas. Email is the best contact method and I generally respond within 24-hours during the week (48-hours on the weekend). Graded materials are typically returned within one to two weeks following the due date depending on the length of the assignment. 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 graduate school. Check out these links for help with Writing Professional Emails or Online Communication Tips.

Course Description

Introduction to environmental planning and policy at the federal, state and local government levels which a focus on the interaction between land management and hazards. 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 Structure

This course will be delivered remotely in an asynchronous style meaning there will be weekly modules (Monday 12:01 am – Sunday 11:59 pm). Each week you will have readings, discussions, and/or assignments to complete for that module. You can watch the assigned lectures/videos, complete readings, participate in the discussion, and turn in the assignments any time during the week prior to the due date (Sunday 11:59pm). There is a total of 15 modules as outlined on the course calendar.

We will have one scheduled group Zoom meeting to kick off the semester on Tuesday, Aug 25 at 7:45pm; attendance is not required but recommended. I will post the recording of the meeting for the class.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

No prerequisites

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.
Materials

There are two required textbooks, which are available at the UNT bookstore or via other sellers.

- Colten, C. 2005. Unnatural Metropolis Wrestling New Orleans from Nature
- Kline, B. 2011. First Along the River: A Brief History of the U.S. Environmental Movement
  - ISBN: 9781442203990
- Additional readings assigned and posted on the course website.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Always use your professors’ proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don’t refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as “wassup?” and texting abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you.”
- Use standard fonts such as Arial, Calibri or Times new Roman and use a size 10 or 12 point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or 😊.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other’s).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

See these Engagement Guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm
Telephone Availability:
  - Sunday: noon-midnight
  - Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout**: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

**Course Requirements**

- Discussion Participation: 40% of total
- Midterm Paper: 20% of total
- Final Paper & Presentation: 30% of total
- One-on-One meeting: 5% of total
- Enthusiasm and Camaraderie: 5% of total

**Weekly Discussion Participants**

I expect everyone to participate in the weekly discussions via Canvas by thoughtfully contributing at least twice in the online discussion board. The discussion boards will focus on the course readings, but can also include cooperative debates, web field trips, generating research banks or similar online activities. Due to the size of the class, some weeks I’ll organize you into smaller discussion groups. In general, preparedness for high-quality participation includes reading all assignments; be able to summarize key points from the readings, understand their methods, and identify points made by the authors that you agree, disagree, or question. The goal of the discussion board is to advance our collective knowledge, simply agreeing or reiterating what someone has already said does not advance the discussion nor earn credit for that week’s discussion.

**Midterm Paper**

Drawing on our examination of federal policies that directly shape environmental planning, students will gain more in-depth knowledge of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In this assignment, students will familiarize themselves with the organization of the FEIS document and write a professional synthesis of this government research report. While FEIS documents can be thousands of pages in length, they are written for the public and formatted in the same way. Once familiar with these formats, students can easily and extract information from these reports, and similar reports at the state and local level. For this assignment, students will select one U.S Federal (NEPA-derived) FEIS related to a project (termed “action”). FEMA, USACE, transportation departments, subdivision developers, and many other entities all have to conduct FEIS for projects. Select a topic and location of interest to you. One place to start your FEIS search is the EPA NEPA databases of EIS: https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/cdx-eneap-II/public/action/eis/search (note: search for “final” in the title to identify FEIS reports). FEIS topic due via email by Sept 27th. This 4-5 page paper (plus references) is due Oct 11 by 11:59pm.

**Final Paper & Presentation**

Inspired by Colten’s (2005) work in New Orleans, students will research the environmental history of one U.S. city and write a 10-12 page paper (plus references) 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 record a PowerPoint presentation in Zoom over their research project and post in the Week 14 module. Students are expected to view the presentations within their discussion group and provide constructive feedback for the author that week rather than participate in a reading-based discussion. The final draft of the paper is due Thur, Dec 10 by 11:59 pm.

**One-on-One meeting**
I invite each student to schedule and attend a one-on-one zoom meeting with me, their instructor, over the course of the semester. This meeting time can be used to discuss course material, gain feedback on an assignment, talk about career-related interests or other relevant topics. While students are welcome to schedule multiple meetings over the semester or attend drop in hours, meeting one-on-one enables me to get to know more about each student’s interests, goals, and aspirations.

**Grading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% or greater</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9%</td>
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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.*

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**Course Calendar**

*(Subject to change with warning)*

**Week 1 (Aug 24-30): Course Introduction**
- Syllabus review, course Expectations- join Zoom or watch recording
- Overview of Environmental Planning & Hazards

Reading & Discuss: Burby (1999); Post introduction in discussion board

**Week 2 (Aug 31-Sept 6): Federal Policy & Local Environmental Planning**
- Review Federal Policies
- Read & Discuss: Kline (2011) Chp 1-2; Brody & Highfield (2005)

**Week 3 (Sept 7- 13): Air Quality & Community Design**
- Sitting transportation routes, industry and other sources of pollutants
- Associated policies

Read & Discuss: Kline (2011) Chp 6; Baldauf (2017)

**Week 4 (Sept 14- 20): EPA & Superfund Sites**
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Read & Discuss: Kline (2011) Chps 7 & 8; TVA v Hill; Lucas v South Carolina

**Week 5 (Sept 21-27): The Decade of Mitigation**
- Land use Planning
- Project Impact

Read & Discuss: Kline (2011) Chp 9; Armstrong (2000); BenDor & Stewart (2011); Syphard et al. (2013)

Email topic for Midterm paper
Week 6 (Sept 28- Oct 4): Urban Planning, Risk & Marginalization
- Environmental (in)justice
Read & Discuss: Maldonado et al. (2016); Min et al. (2019); Patterson & Harley (2019)

Week 7 (Oct 5-11): Federal Housing Policies & Hazards
- HOLC policies, real estate values & risk
- Mapping Inequalities exercise
Read & Discuss: Crossney & Bartelt (2005); Hoffman et al. (2020)

Midterm Paper Due Oct 11 by 11:59pm

Week 8 (Oct 12-18): Housing & Relocation Plans
- Buyouts, planned retreat and other forms of relocation
Read & Discuss: Binder et al. (2020); Atoba et al. (2020); Green et al. (2013); Zavar (2015)

Week 9 (Oct 19-25): Ecological Protection as Hazard Risk Reduction
- Ecosystem services & nature-based mitigation
- New Urbanism design
Read & Discuss: Bogost (2017); Berke et al. (2003); Kim et al.

- Community-based planning & resident inclusion
- T.E.J.A.S Environmental Justice Advocacy Services
Read & Discuss: Hendricks et al. (2018); Zaragoza (2019)

Week 11 (Nov 2-8): Introduction to New Orleans and the early history
Read Colten pages xv-76

Week 12 (Nov 9-15): Social Injustice & Environmental Management
Read & Discuss: Colten pages 77-139

Week 13 (Nov 16-22): Managing Southern Louisiana environments & hazards
Read & Discuss: Colten pages 140-192

Week 14 (Nov 23-29): Planning Resilient Communities in the Face of Climate Change
- Climate adaptation plans
Read & Discuss: Brand et al. (2020); Endo et al. 2017; Van Zandt (2020)

Week 15 (Nov 30- Dec 6): Presentations
- View & provide constructive comments on the presentations within your group
Final Exam Paper due in hardcopy by Thur, Dec 10 by 11:59 pm.

Course Policies
Paper Format
Please format all assigned papers for this course as follows: Times New Roman font size 12, 1-inch margins, double-spaced, no cover page. Edit and proof read carefully. Submit paper in Canvas as either a .doc; .docx; or .pdf file.

Technology Problems
The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work
A 10% deduction per 24-hour period will be assessed for late work.

Attendance Policy
Your participation is the weekly modules serves as your attendance in our remote class. You can have one unexcused absence (i.e. week without participation in the discussion boards) during the semester with no consequences, additional unexcused absences will result in point loss.

Department Policies

Course Evaluation

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.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy
Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).
Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior
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 Dean of Students 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. Visit UNT’s Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal
laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student’s physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student’s course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student’s full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.
Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification
UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work
A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.

2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.
Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Student Support Services

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)