

EADP 3035 Sec 1
Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness

Instructor: Dr. Elyse Zavar

Class Meetings: Wednesday 6-8:50 pm in Sage 354

Office Hours: Monday 11am – 1pm, Tuesday 12-1pm, or by appointment (email to arrange a time)

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Teaching Assistant:

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 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 inappropriate 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. 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. Do NOT leave an assignment under my office door.

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 or extra credit opportunities.*

Grading

10% Assignment 1: Stop Disasters Game: Challenges in Mitigation and Preparedness
15% Assignment 2: Local Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
10% Assignment 3: Plan Review
10% Assignment 4: Hazard Preparedness/Mitigation Research Paper
25% Midterm Exam
25% Final Exam
5% Attendance & In-class Activities 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 18 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. Email assignments will not be accepted.*

Assignment 3: Plan Review

For this two part assignment, you will have the opportunity to apply the concepts and materials covered in this course to review hazard mitigation plans. The objectives of this assignment are to (1) demonstrate thorough understanding of the basic requirements of a hazard mitigation plan, (2) gain experience reviewing plans, (3) gain exposure to what makes strong plans versus weak plans, (4) enhance written and verbal communication skills, and (5) gain experience working in a team setting.

Project will span multiple in-class days and out-of-class written components. Late work will incur a 10% per 24-hour period deduction. Email assignments will not be accepted.

Assignment 4: Hazard Mitigation Current Event Presentation

In this team assignment, you will work in small teams of 2-3 students to identify a current event (from 2018-2019) from a reputable news source on a mitigation issue. The type of mitigation strategy and geographic location is open but the article must be verified with the instruction by the date listed on the course calendar. Group PowerPoint presentations will be delivered in class on Dec 4. Late work will incur a 10% per 24-hour period deduction. Email assignments will not be accepted.

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.

For both the midterm and final exam, you have the opportunity to develop a review guide and turn it in at the beginning of the scheduled exam period for up to five points extra credit. The general format is up to each individual, for maximum points the guide must include all topics covered for that exam. Remember the goal of a good study guide is to organize your notes and materials. I recommend identifying key concepts, prioritize information, define vocab works, and include examples.

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.

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?

Due next class: Read Schwab Chapters 1, 12 & Syllabus

Week 2: Mitigation and Preparedness Tools & Techniques (Sept 4)

- Structural & non-structural mitigation
- Evolution of mitigation
- Preparedness responsibilities

Due next class: Read Schwab Chapters 2-3

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

- Weather-related & Climatological hazards
- Mitigation & Preparedness strategies by type

Due next class: Read Schwab 4

Assignment 1: Stop Disasters Game

Week 4: Hazards Continued (Sept 18)

- Notify instructor of county & hazard selected for the risk assessment (in class)
- Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Volcanoes
- Mitigation & Preparedness strategies by type

Due next class: Register for SHELDUS (www.sheldus.org)

Select county & hazard for Risk Assessment

Week 5: Hazards Continued (Sept 25)

- Slides/flows, Erosion/Subsidence
- People causing Geologic hazards
- Mitigation & Preparedness strategies by type

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

Week 6: Technological Hazards (Oct 2)

- Overview of Tech Hazards
- Anti-terrorism and Counterterrorism
- All-Hazards Approach
- Exam Review

Due next class: N/A

Week 7: Midterm Exam (Oct 9)

Week 8: Risk Assessment (Oct 16)

- Hazard mitigation plan process

Due next class: Hardcopy draft of Assignment 2

Week 9: Working Day- Assignment 2 (Oct 23)

- Bring hardcopy draft for in-class peer review

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapters 6.1-6.4; Stafford Act (Canvas)

Assignment 2 final draft

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

- Assignment 2 final paper due
- Notify instructor what Hazard mitigation plan you want to evaluate in class
- Preparedness plan requirements

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 7; Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (Canvas) & Horney et al., 2012 (Canvas)

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: read Schwab Chapter 13

Assignment 3 Individual Hazard Mitigation Plan Checklist & Reflection

Week 12: Preparing and Reviewing Plans Assessment (Nov 6)

- Assignment 3 Individual Hazard Mitigation Plan Checklist & Reflection Due at beginning of class
- Assignment 3 Group Checklist due at end of class

Assignments due next class: Read Schwab Chapter 11 and THIRA Summary (Canvas)

Email instructor Assignment 4 topic by beginning of next class

Week 12: Role of the Federal, State and Local Government in Mitigation (Nov 13)

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

Assignments due next class: read Schwab Chapter 13

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

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

Assignments due next class: N/A

Week 14: Assignment 3 Writing Workshop (Nov 27)

Assignments due next class: Assignment 4 Research Paper & Presentation

Week 15: Presentations & Review (Dec 4)

- Assignment 4 Presentations
- Final Exam Review

Final Exam Wed, Dec 11, 2018 from 6-8 p.m.