

Course Syllabus
Capstone Course in Emergency Management
Spring 2026
EADP 4080.001
Monday 6:00-8:50 p.m.
ENV 190

Instructor: Dr. Gary Webb

Office Hours: M 3:00-4:30 p.m. and by appointment via Zoom or in-person.

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Course Overview

This course provides a synthesis of emergency management concepts and perspectives covered in the core EADP classes. Case studies of disasters are emphasized to provide real-world examples of applied principles. This class will include readings and discussions related to the current theoretical approaches and trends in the field. Students will be expected to creatively analyze these theories and trends in order to make informed and thoughtful contributions to classroom discussion. This course will incorporate modules on the practical skills students of emergency management will be expected to demonstrate upon gaining employment in the field. Specific topics covered in this course include policies that have significance on the day-to-day operations of emergency management organizations, decision-making and ethics in the field and current challenges the new generation will face in their careers.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to sharpen students' understanding of the historical origins of emergency management, its current status, and future challenges and opportunities. Upon completion of the course students should:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the current and emerging issues related to the field of emergency management.
2. Apply basic principles of emergency management to topical issues confronting the field.
3. Develop and refine skill sets essential to enter and contribute to the emergency management profession.
4. Possess the skills and confidence necessary for their roles and responsibilities in the field of emergency management.

Course Readings

Throughout the semester assigned readings will be posted on Canvas prior to each class where applicable.

Course Requirements

Student grades for this course will be based on two exams and a final presentation.

Exams

There will be two required *90 minute* exams to be administered in class on ***Monday, March 2 and Monday, April 20***, consisting of multiple choice and essay questions.

Presentation

Each student will deliver a 10 minute PowerPoint Presentation on one of the following topics:

- (A) Identify a major challenge facing the profession of emergency management, providing evidence of the nature, extent, and consequences of the challenge and suggesting strategies for addressing it in the future.
- (B) Describe how emergency management is practiced in a country other than the U.S., identifying the primary hazards and discussing relevant policies and systems for managing disasters in that country.
- (C) Propose a reform for the profession of emergency management in the U.S., providing a rationale and describing the challenges and benefits of implementing the reform.
- (D) Provide a personal biography, chronicling your discovery of emergency management and describing your professional aspirations, motivations, and guiding principles.

PowerPoint files are due in Canvas by 5:00 p.m., **April 27**, and each student will deliver a presentation to the class on that date.

Course Grades

To summarize, course requirements and their relative weight for grading purposes are as follows:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
<u>Presentation</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	250 points

Student grades will be calculated on the following scale:

<u>Points earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>
225-250	A
200-224	B
175-199	C
150-174	D
0-149	F

Late Assignments

Student presentations 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. 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.

Attendance and Participation

As an advanced, culminating course in the EADP program, this class will be conducted in a manner that combines traditional lectures with extensive in-class discussions and activities. Each week the instructor will begin the class with a PowerPoint presentation that provides an overview of that week's topic, then, following a short break, students will engage in small-group discussions to explore the topic in greater detail and report their findings and insights back out to the larger class. Thus, to be successful students are expected to regularly attend class meetings, actively participate in classroom discussions and activities, and fully engage with the course content.

Tentative Course Outline*

Week 1 January 12

Topics

Introductions and Course Overview

Readings: None

Week 2 January 19

*****No Class: MLK Day*****

Week 3 January 26

Topics

Knowledge Transfer Challenges: Disaster Science and Emergency Management

Readings: TBD

Week 4 February 2

Topics

Bureaucratic Challenges: McDonaldization and Emergency Management

Readings: TBD

Week 5 February 9

Topics

Perception Challenges: (Re)Imagining the Role of Emergency Management

Readings: TBD

Week 6 February 16

Topics

Technological Challenges: Pitfalls and Possibilities

Readings: TBD

Week 7 February 23

Topics

Inequality Challenges: Demographics, Disasters, and Emergency Management

Readings: TBD

Week 8 March 2

*****Exam 1*****

Week 9 March 9

***** No Class: Spring Break*****

Week 10 March 16

Topics

TBD

Readings: TBD

Week 11 March 23

Topics

Leadership Challenges: Core Competencies and “Soft Skills”

Readings: TBD

Week 12 March 30

Topics

Policy Challenges: Politics, disasters, and emergency management

Readings: TBD

Week 13 April 6

Economic Challenges: Privatization and emergency management

Readings: TBD

Week 14 April 13

Topics

Future Challenges: Creeping, compounding, and cascading crises

Readings: TBD

Week 15 April 20

****Exam 2****

Week 16 April 27

****Student Presentations****

Week 17 May 4

****Finals Week****

* 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.

RELEVANT POLICIES TO THIS COURSE

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. Because we only meet once a week, every class meeting is essential to your success. *You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](#) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>).* If you have an emergency or run into challenges that require you to miss a class, please inform the instructor beforehand, if possible. While an occasional absence is understandable and likely will not adversely impact a student's overall performance in the class, multiple absences are likely to negatively impact student performance.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. UNT Policy [06.003](#) defines cheating as “the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise” and plagiarism as the “use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent.” Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with UNT Policy 06.003 Student Standards of Academic Integrity and in accordance with the process outlined by the Office of Academic Integrity (<http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>).

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/index.html>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [Student Conduct and Community Standards | Division of Student Affairs \(unt.edu\)](#).

PORABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

When used appropriately, certain technologies, such as laptop computers, tablets, and smartphones, can enhance the university classroom experience. They also increasingly play a role in promoting campus safety by allowing students to receive severe weather alerts and other important risk information. However, when used inappropriately those same technologies can become a distraction to the individual user, other students, and the

instructor. Thus, while students may use portable electronic devices for taking class notes, searching the web for class-related content and resources, and receiving risk warnings and alerts, they may not be used for conducting personal communications (e.g., texting and e-mailing), accessing social media, or any other non-academic purposes. In the event that a student's use of portable electronic devices causes a distraction, they will first be asked to refrain from such use, and, if the problem persists, will be asked to leave the classroom.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Prohibited Use: In this course, the use of GenAI tools is not permissible. No matter the approach, any attempt to represent GenAI output as a student's own work will be considered fabrication, cheating, and/or academic dishonesty as determined on a case-by-case basis.

UNT Spring 2026 Semester Calendar

KEY SEMESTER DATES	Full Semester Jan. 12-May 8	3 week I Winter Session Dec. 15-Jan. 9	8 week I Session Jan 12-Mar. 6	8 week II Session Mar. 16-May 8
Schedule of Classes Available on myUNT	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Sept. 22	Sept. 22
Registration Opens For specifics by student group/class: https://registrar.unt.edu/when-can-i-register	Oct. 6	Oct. 6	Oct. 6	Oct. 6
Prerequisite Drop Students not meeting course prerequisites will be dropped from their courses.	Dec. 16	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	Mar. 16
Regular Registration Ends	Jan. 8	Dec. 11	Jan. 8	Mar. 12
Late Registration Period—For Students not Registered for the Term	Jan. 9-16	Dec. 12-15	Jan. 9-16	Mar. 13-20
Last Day to Withdrawal from Entire Term on myUNT Courses do not appear on the transcript. After this date see Dean of Students to withdrawal from the entire term.	Jan. 11	Dec. 14	Jan. 11	Mar. 15
Classes Begin	Jan. 12	Dec. 15	Jan. 12	Mar. 16
Last Day to Add a Class or Swap Sections A swap is switching sections of the same course in the same session.	Jan. 16	Dec. 15	Jan. 16	Mar. 20
Last Day to Drop a Class Section Without a W (Census) Courses dropped before this date will not appear on official transcript. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Jan. 24	Dec. 16	Jan. 17	Mar. 21
Drop with a Grade of W Begins Courses appear on the transcript with a grade of W and tuition and fees remain. (Dropping courses may impact financial aid and degree completion. See advisors.)	Jan. 25	Dec. 17	Jan. 18	Mar. 22
Last day to change to pass/no pass grade option (undergrads)	Feb. 20	Dec. 19	Jan. 30	April 3
Midpoint of the Semester	Mar. 6	Dec. 24	Feb. 6	April 10
Last day for a student to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W.	April 10	Jan. 6	Feb. 20	April 24
First day to request a grade of Incomplete	April 11	Jan. 7	Feb. 21	April 25
Pre-Finals Days	April 29-30	N/A	N/A	N/A
Last Regular Class Meeting	April 30	Jan. 8	Mar. 5	May 7
Reading Day—No Classes	May 1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Final Exams	May 4-8	Jan. 9	Mar. 6	May 8
Last Day of Session	May 8	Jan. 9	Mar. 6	May 8
University Grade Submission Deadline 4 pm	May 11	Jan. 12	Mar. 9	May 11
Grades/Academic Standing posted on the Official Transcript 6pm	May 13	May 13	May 13	May 13
Winter Break (no classes; university closed)	December 24-26, December 29-January 2			
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Jan. 19, 2026			
Spring Break	March 9-15, 2026			
University Commencement	May 7-11, 2026			