EMDS 5800/6800 Seminar: Risk Perception, Hazard Adjustment, and Measures

Contact

Instructor Name: Dr. H. Tristan Wu  
Office Location: Chilton 308 C  
Phone Number: (940) 891-6719  
Office Hours: By appointment only  
Virtual Office Hours: by appointment, via Zoom: https://unt.zoom.us/my/tristan.wu  
Email: tristan.wu@unt.edu

Communication Expectations: Email is my preferred method of contact. You should expect a response within 24 hours (except on weekends and holidays when response time may be longer). Some questions are better addressed verbally rather than through email, so please do not hesitate to ask for a quick Zoom meeting with the instructor, if needed. All communication should be professional. Since digital communication lacks nonverbal cues, please be mindful of tone. Try to use proper spelling, grammar, salutations, and titles (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.).

Course Objectives

Disasters worldwide seem to be increasing in their frequency and severity. So-called “natural” disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and wildfires threaten human lives, property, public safety, health, quality of life, and economic and natural resources. With this array of risks facing modern society, disaster scholars must understand these risks, develop strategies to help communities adjust to the hazards, and adopt preparedness and mitigation practices ahead of future destructive events.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Be familiar with the theories and models of hazard and disaster risk.  
2. Identify household hazard adjustment activities to natural and technological hazards.  
3. Understand households’ motivation and ability to adjust to hazards.  
4. Be familiar with the scientific measures and methods to analyze disaster preparedness and mitigation activities at the household level.

Course Structure

Class Meeting Time: We plan to meet three times this semester. We currently plan to meet on 8/27, 10/15, and 11/19. Depend on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting times might be changed.  
Zoom (Synchronous Meetings): https://unt.zoom.us/my/tristan.wu

This course is a hybrid offering. We plan to have in-person classes on weeks 1, 8, and 13. For the rest of the weeks, we will have synchronous zoom meetings during our regular class time.
Materials

There is no required textbook. Starting from Week 2, we will have readings assigned to each topic. Usually, we will have 3 to 4 readings per week.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer with Microsoft Office (i.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and internet browser installed
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Webcam (this is built into most laptops)
- Computer/device must meet Canvas technical requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

To succeed in the course, students must be able to:

- Use Canvas – including discussion, inbox, and assignment submission features
- Use email with attachments
- Use Zoom – including chat and share screen features
- Convert, save, or print documents as Adobe PDF files

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 technical 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)

Rules of Engagement

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Listen to your peers. This course provides a forum for discussing relevant societal issues that may be sensitive and/or personal. Practice social responsibility by keeping dialogue cordial and constructive.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” in emails or discussion posts.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

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

**Course Requirements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Summaries</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Assignments**

**Weekly Reading Summaries and Discussions**

During week 2 to week 12 (except week 8), students have to prepare summaries of the weekly readings, to be discussed in class. The readings will be posted on Canvas one week before the summaries are due. Normally we will have 3 readings each week. For each reading, the summary should be 1-page in length, in a font no larger than 12 points and no smaller than 10 points, double spaced. Summaries are normally due on Canvas by 11:59 PM every Wednesday. In addition, we will have three students lead the discussions every week. The discussion leaders will have to talk about the readings and each of them needs to come up with at least 3 discussion questions that they have about the readings. The discussion leaders need to email the instructor their questions by Wednesday 11:59 PM. These questions will be discussed in the class and the rest of the students need to try to answer the questions.
**Concept Paper**

A one-page concept paper for your final paper is due on Thursday, 10/22, 11:59 PM. The purpose of this concept paper is to make sure your final paper is feasible. The concept paper needs to include a research topic, an initial literature review, the problem, initial data collection and analysis plan, and the significance of this project.

**Final Paper**

*Content:* Please select a topic in the area of disaster/hazard adjustment. You will submit a research proposal. The objective of a research proposal is to define the research objectives (i.e., hypotheses or research questions) and research methods for an empirical study (you do not need to actually do the study, only design it). A research proposal should include a statement of the problem, a review of relevant literature, specific study objectives, a data collection plan, an analysis plan, expected results, and documentation (literature cited).

The literature review section needs to identify ten or more journal articles in a given topic and compare their findings systematically. It is essential to link your topic to the concepts discussed in the readings and lectures. One way you can do this is by making comments throughout the paper regarding whether a specific point is consistent with course materials, contradicts course materials, or expands upon course materials. Another way you can link your topic to the course materials is to have a summary section at the end of your paper that makes the linkage. In addition, you should support your main points with references from the Scholarly literature. Reports from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and corporations are acceptable, but exclusive reliance on such sources is not. Wikipedia entries might be helpful to you in the preliminary stages of your literature search but are not acceptable sources for your paper.

*Length:* Approximately 20 ± 2 pages double-spaced (including references). The quality of your analysis and your writing is much more important than the length of the paper.

*Format:* The final paper is due on Canvas by Monday, Dec 7th, 11:59 PM. The first page must have your name, the date, and the title of the paper. Margins must be at least 1.25 inches, 12 points is required, Times New Roman font is preferred. All citations should be provided in parentheses, for example (Wu et al., 2013).

*All material (text, figures, and tables) from other sources must be properly cited, either as a quotation or as a source.* Please check with me if you have any questions about this. Failed to use proper citations can expose you to charges of plagiarism, which is a serious crime in academia.

*References:* Should be listed at the end of the paper. Please use the American Sociological Association (ASA) format.

**Final Presentation**

Each student has to make a 10 to 20 minutes final presentation on Week 13. The topic of your final presentation is your final paper. The purpose of your final presentation is to give you an opportunity to share your progress and ideas of your final project to the class. All students are encouraged to provide suggestions to the presenter.
Grading
A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 50%-59%

Course Evaluation
Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. I welcome feedback and suggestions via SPOT and have used them to improve this course over time.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy
Formal attendance will not be taken. Students are expected to keep up with the learning materials.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance
While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction
The UNT fall schedule requires this course to have fully remote instruction beginning November 28th. Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and computer with the required software (listed above under Minimum Technology Requirements) to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn.

Late Work Policy
Submitting work on time is crucial to receiving timely feedback and scores on assignments. I will accept late work at a penalty of -10% per weekday the assignment is late. All late work must be submitted in the originally assigned format (via Canvas). If you have an acceptable and documented excuse for submitting late work (e.g., medical procedure, auto accident, military orders, mandatory first responder
training), I may waive or reduce the late penalty. Please communicate with me as soon as possible if you anticipate missing a deadline so we can make alternate arrangements.

Syllabus Change Policy
Any changes to the syllabus, course information, course schedule, or due dates will be posted in Canvas under the Syllabus tab. I will also make a Canvas Announcement regarding any of these changes.

Course Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>8/27</th>
<th>Course Orientation (In-person meeting)</th>
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| Week 2 | 9/3     | Introduction to risk perception, hazard adjustment, and measures  
Discussion Leader: Tristan Wu, Hannin Al Wardi, Mohsen Alattas |
| Week 3 | 9/10    | Risk perception  
Discussion Leader: Julie Elliott, Graham Huether, Denisse Martinez |
| Week 4 | 9/17    | Theoretical bases of risk communication  
Discussion Leader: Jeremy Smith, Hanin Al Wardi, Mohsen Alattas |
| Week 5 | 9/24    | Hazard awareness as risk communication  
Discussion Leader: Julie Elliott, Graham Huether, Denisse Martinez |
| Week 6 | 10/1    | Household hazard adjustment and hazard agent  
Discussion Leader: Jeremy Smith, Hanin Al Wardi, Mohsen Alattas |
| Week 7 | 10/8    | Theories/models of hazard adjustment  
Discussion Leader: Julie Elliott, Graham Huether, Denisse Martinez |
| Week 8 | 10/15   | Measures and survey (In-person Meeting) |
| Week 9 | 10/22   | Politics of hazard adjustment  
Discussion Leader: Jeremy Smith, Hanin Al Wardi, Mohsen Alattas  
Concept pager due on Thursday 10/22, 11:59 PM |
| Week 10| 10/29   | Approaches to influencing hazard adjustment adoption  
Discussion Leader: Julie Elliott, Graham Huether, Denisse Martinez |
| Week 11| 11/5    | Analyzing hazard adjustment survey data  
Discussion Leader: Jeremy Smith, Hanin Al Wardi, Mohsen Alattas |
| Week 12| 11/12   | Implementation of hazard adjustment  
Discussion Leader: Julie Elliott, Graham Huether, Denisse Martinez |
| Week 13| 11/19   | Final Presentation (In-person Meeting) |
| Week 14| 11/26   | Thanksgiving Break |
| Week 15| 12/3    | Review of the materials |
| Week 16| 12/10   | Final Report due on Monday, Dec. 7th, 11:59 PM |

*This is a hybrid class. We plan to meet three times this semester. We will meet on 8/27, 10/15, and 11/19. Depend on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting times might be changed.
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. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

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/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)
The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

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 Canvas 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 Canvas 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/).
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.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses
Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.
Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health
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)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names
A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT eulDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns
Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.

You can add your pronouns to your Canvas account so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- How do I use pronouns?
- How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?
- How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?
**Additional Student Support Services**

- [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/)