

EADP 3010 Principles of Emergency Management

Spring 2026

Online (Asynchronous)

Syllabus Last Updated: 1/6/2026

Instructor: Professor Julie Elliott

Office Location: Chilton Hall 302G

Zoom Office Hour: Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (or by appointment)

Zoom Link: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/6730750077>

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Teaching Assistant: Molly McHugh

Office Location: Chilton Hall 302B

Zoom Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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Recorded Lecture Instructor: Dr. Ronnie Schumann

Course Description

Disasters worldwide seem to be increasing in their frequency and severity. So-called “natural” disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and wildfires threaten human lives and property. Technological threats like nuclear accidents, chemical spills, terrorist attacks, and pandemics endanger public safety, health, quality of life, and economic and natural resources. With this array of risks facing modern society, emergency managers must understand these risks, develop strategies to help communities cope, and implement resilient policies and practices ahead of future destructive events. This course introduces students to the complementary fields of emergency management practice and disaster science research.

Course Structure

This course is an asynchronous (fully remote) offering. This means all course components will take place via Canvas and Zoom. We will not meet face-to-face. The course is 16 weeks in length, and each module corresponds to a single week. Due dates for module components are generally **Sundays at 11:59 PM**, unless otherwise specified. Each successive module will be unlocked upon the completion of the previous module up until an exam. Each exam must be completed during the week it is assigned.

Course Skills and Objectives

This course emphasizes critical thinking and written communication skills. The course teaches best practices and professional ethics for future emergency managers and disaster researchers. Additionally, case studies and examples intend to grow students’ geographic literacy and sociocultural literacy, which are among the Next Generation Core Competencies for Emergency Management Professionals.

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

1. Differentiate between the four phases of the disaster life cycle: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
2. Describe the all-hazards approach to emergency management.
3. Proficiently use emergency management concepts and terminology in written communication.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of emergency activities based on guiding principles from emergency management practice.
5. Explain the roots of disaster science and of emergency management.
6. Identify and contrast the various sectors of the emergency management profession.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course. It is recommended that EADP majors take EADP 3020 (Methods in Emergency Management) concurrently with this course.

Required Materials

Required Text

Phillips, B.D., Neal, D.M., and Webb, G.R. (2022). Introduction to Emergency Management and Disaster Science. 3rd Edition. Boca Raton: CRC Press. (ISBN-13: 978-0-3678-9899-1).

This textbook edition is a black paperback (not the hardcover green book or hardcover red book). You may find it in the UNT bookstore or online. All other required readings and media for the course will be posted on Canvas under the corresponding module. Note: some media will be available via an external URL web link.

Technology Requirements

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and a reliable internet connection. Other technology requirements include:

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Internet browser installed
- Speakers, microphone & webcam (these components are built into most laptops)

If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at Learn Anywhere (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

How to Succeed in this Course

- **Active and Timely Participation.** Get the most out of the class by participating in all its aspects. This includes viewing lectures, reading and cross-referencing the text with the lectures, completing quizzes, viewing multimedia resources (e.g., documentaries, podcasts, or media clips), and responding consistently and thoughtfully to discussion board questions. At the discretion of the instructor, there may also be opportunities to take part in optional exam reviews or guest speaker opportunities to enrich the course material. I encourage you to take advantage of as much as possible!

- **Find support.** Open communication is key. Please feel comfortable sending a message to me or our teaching assistant. Further, when you need assistance, meet with me or our teaching assistant during our Zoom office hours. Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Further, there are several other resources the university has made available to you to support your education. I strongly encourage you to utilize the Learning Center for tutoring or utilize the Writing Lab as you work on your paper for this course. Consider forming a study group with other students in this class.
- **Be prepared.** Read assigned readings prior to the start of class and be prepared to discuss concepts during class. Carefully read the syllabus to ensure you understand expectations for class assignments, exams, and activities.
- **Stay focused.** Every assignment, every project, every exam in college is preparing you for your future. Stay focused on your goals. Your hard work now will pay off.

Accommodations

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Academic Success Resources

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out mental health services (<https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies>), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Communication Practices

How You Will Communicate with Us

Whenever you have a question about the syllabus, course materials, assignments, or anything else related to this course (and your question cannot be answered by the syllabus or Canvas page for this class), you are encouraged to contact our teaching assistant (TA) via email or Canvas. Please send you

initial message through the TA, as they may be able to answer your question quicker than me. If your email is about something the TAs are not able to address, they will forward the email on to me.

When communicating with us, please be mindful of the following guidelines:

- We strive to respond within 2 business days; if you do not receive a reply within 2 days, I encourage you to send a follow-up message. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. Keep in mind that response times may be longer on weekends and holidays.
- All communication related to this class should be professional. I will not tolerate rudeness or disrespect directed toward myself, our teaching assistant, or other students.
- Some questions are better addressed verbally – for instance, **we cannot discuss grades via email**. In these instances, I encourage you to visit me or our TA during Zoom office hours.

How I Will Communicate with You

All class-wide communication about this course will be sent through Canvas. I will be posting several announcements throughout the semester so please check Canvas frequently! I recommend downloading the Canvas app to your phone and ensuring notifications are turned on.

Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates may occur, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please let us know. We are all learning together.

Academic Integrity Expectations

Cheating and Plagiarism

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.” Both cheating and plagiarism are considered academic dishonesty and violations of UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy. **I take violations of this Policy very seriously and will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism in my class.** Any cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with UNT Policy 06.003 Student Standards of Academic Integrity and the process outlined by the Office of Academic Integrity. 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, if not the first violation of the policy in my class, an “F” for the course. I also will report the student(s) to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review.

NOTE: Students who use other people’s work without proper citation will be violating UNT’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Please read UNT’s Academic Integrity policy to support your academic success.

(<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please reach out to me.

Artificial Intelligence

AI software – such as ChatGPT – is a tool. Like any tool, it can be used effectively and make life and work easier, but it can also be very damaging when used inappropriately.

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. **For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini is NOT permitted in this course.** While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If I suspect that AI has been utilized in an assignment, I reserve the right to assign a zero on the assignment and, if not the first violation of the policy, an “F” for the course.

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.

Notice for F-1 Visa Students

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. 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

- a. 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.
- b. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:
 - i. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
 - ii. 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 their need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they 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.

Other Student Support Services

Looking for help with **tutoring, writing, or other academic resources**? Are you in need of **food or mental health** support services? Are you looking to find **career help, advocacy, or a supportive/affirming student community**? You can access more information on these UNT-based services and additional policies in one of three places:

- In the Navigate App (Navigate.unt.edu).
- In Canvas under the Help menu.
- Via the [Student Support Services & Policies](#) page.

If you need help or resources, please email me or reach out in person, and I will help connect you to the campus services that are available.

Course Requirements/Schedule

Assessing Your Work

Course requirements and their relative weight for grading purposes are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| Quizzes (7) | 10% |
| Discussion Posts (12) | 10% |
| Disaster Case Study | 20% |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 100% |

Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 50-59

Exams

This course has three exams. Each exam will consist of a variety of question types (multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer/list questions, and potentially an essay question). Questions will be drawn from assigned readings, lecture material, and the discussion board stimuli that reinforce key concepts from readings and lecture. The first two exams are non-comprehensive, while the final exam incorporates key concepts from the entire semester. Comprehensive portions of the final exam focus on the All-hazards Approach and activities that pertain to each of the four emergency management phases.

Discussion Posts

Discussion boards with one or two open-ended questions will be posted on Canvas for 12 weeks. The two lowest discussion board post grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Your original post must be substantive, and it must incorporate a topic or source from this course. The best posts explain insights from other classes, incorporate outside sources/issues, or incorporate personal experiences. Posts such as “I agree”, “I disagree”, or “I’ve experienced that, too” with no justification will not receive credit. Instructions for receiving credit are provided within each discussion board on Canvas.

Quizzes

There will be 7 open-book and open-note Canvas quizzes based on each module’s reading and media. (Note: I recommend viewing all module components prior to taking each quiz). Each quiz has a 20-minute time limit. You will only have 2 attempts to take each quiz. Quiz questions will be randomly selected from a bank of potential questions, so they may differ in the second attempt. The second

attempt is intended only as a fail-safe for technical glitches, so connecting via a hard-wired internet connection and using a power cord are strongly recommended when taking quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Disaster Case Study

For the **Disaster Case Study Paper**, you will select a disaster that fits the parameters specified in the instructions and profile the event. This assignment emphasizes written communication, critical thinking, and application of emergency management and disaster science concepts learned in the course. Paper instructions, including event parameters, and the scoring rubric will be made available on Canvas under the Assignments tab.

Assignment Policy

Students should refer to the schedule in this syllabus and our Canvas page to know when assignments are due. **Weekly due dates for all module components will be 11:59 p.m. each Sunday, unless otherwise noted.**

Instructions and rubrics for each assignment will be posted under the Assignment tab in Canvas. Assignments should all be saved and submitted in an appropriate format (usually .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF) and submitted via Canvas. Click on the assignment title in the Canvas Assignment tab to access the submission window. I reserve the right to use Turnitin or similar software for submission on some assignments. Extra credit and bonus credit will be given at the instructor's discretion and announced via Canvas and/or in class.

Submitting work on time is crucial to receiving timely feedback and scores on assignments. Since you will have a week to complete your assignment, no late work will be accepted unless you have a legitimate excuse, such as those outlined in University Policy. Please communicate with me about planned absences or extenuating circumstances. **All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis (and in accordance with UNT policy); I cannot guarantee approval of requests.** Please read more about UNT authorized absences in UNT policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences.

Course Outline

It is important to note that this course outline is tentative and may be changed. In the event changes to the outline are made, students will be notified via Canvas Announcement. It is important, therefore, that students engage regularly with the class page on Canvas to learn about any changes.

Unit 1: Getting Acquainted with Emergency Management and Disaster Science

Week 1: January 12 - 18

- Topic: Emergency Management & Disaster Science Basics
 - Read: Chapter 3.1 – 3.3, Chapter 2.1
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Syllabus

Week 2: January 20 – 25 (NOTE: January 19, MLK Jr. Day – No Classes)

- Topic: Hazards That Can Become Disasters
 - Read: Chapter 2.3
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 1 & 2

Week 3: January 26 – February 1

- Topic: Human Vulnerability & Resilience to Disasters
 - Read:
 - Chapter 3.4-3.5, Chapter 4.1-4.3
 - Strickland, P. 2016. "Living on the edges: Life in the *colonias* of Texas."
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board

Week 4: February 2 – February 8

- Topic: History & Current Status of Emergency Management & Disaster Science
 - Read: Chapter 1, Chapter 2.2
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 3 & 4

Week 5: February 9 – February 15 (EXAM WEEK)

- **Exam 1 (covers Weeks 1-4)**

Unit 2: Comprehensive Emergency Management

Week 6: February 16 – February 22

- Topic: Preparedness, Planning & Risk Perception
 - Read: Chapter 5 & Chapter 6
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board

Week 7: February 23 – March 1

- Topic: Warnings & Response
 - Read: Chapter 7
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 6 & 7

Week 8: March 2 – March 8

- Topic: Challenges & Myths of Disaster Response
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board

SPRING BREAK: March 9 – March 15 (NO CLASSES)

Week 9: March 16 – March 22

- Topic: Disaster Recovery
 - Read: Chapter 8
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 8 & 9

Out-of-Class Assignments available

Week 10: March 23 – March 29 (EXAM WEEK)

- **Exam 2 (covers Weeks 6-9)**

Week 11: March 30 – April 5

- Topic: Mitigation
 - Read: Chapter 9
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board

Unit 3: Working and Volunteering in Emergency Management

Week 12: April 6 – April 12

- Topic: Public, Private & Nonprofit Sectors of Emergency Management
 - Read: Chapter 10
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 11 & 12

Week 13: April 13 – April 19

- Topic: International Humanitarian Disaster Management
 - Read: Chapter 11
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board

Week 14: April 20 – April 26

- Topic: The Next Generation of Emergency Managers
 - Read: Chapter 12
 - View lecture
 - Participate in the discussion board
 - Complete Quiz: Modules 13 & 14

Week 15: April 27 – May 3

- Work on out-of-class assignments
 - **Disaster Case Study due by Monday, May 4, at 11:59 p.m.**
- Prepare for and take final exam:
 - Final exam available beginning April 27 at 8:00 a.m.

- Exam covers everything from the semester, including the all-hazards approach and the four phases of emergency management
- Final exam due by Monday, May 4, at 11:59 p.m.