Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness
EADP 3035 (001)

Instructor: Dr. Laura Siebeneck  Office Location: Chilton 308 F
Semester: Spring 2022  Course Schedule: M 6:00-8:50pm
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-2:00pm  Course Location: Sage 354
E-mail: laura.siebeneck@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Miranda Sauceda  Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Email: mirandsaucedap@my.unt.edu  Office: Chilton 302

Prerequisite: EADP 3010 or consent of the instructor.

Course Description
This course provides an overview of hazard mitigation and preparedness as it relates to the field of emergency management. Throughout this course, students will be introduced to a variety of hazards, including meteorological, geological, hydrological, and technological hazards and the mitigation and preparedness strategies that can be taken to minimize hazard risk and vulnerability. Risk and vulnerability methodology will also be emphasized in this course. Additionally, students will also become familiar with mitigation and preparedness practices and programs as well as policies at the federal, state, and local government levels that promote long-term community resilience and sustainability. Finally, students will gain hands-on experience reviewing a local hazard mitigation plan and will be introduced to the new FEMA Mitigation Plan Guidance and Review Tool.

Course Objectives
The course will provide students with the knowledge and resources to:

1. Identify, profile, and assess hazard risk and vulnerability as necessary for hazard mitigation and preparedness planning.
2. Recognize hazards and develop metrics for estimating potential losses from hazard events.
3. Develop and review local and state hazard mitigation plans.
4. Know the roles that local, state, and federal governments have in hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness.
5. Identify key mitigation and preparedness programs/policies offered by the federal government.

Course Text
Additional and supplemental readings will be posted on Canvas.
Readings
Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to the corresponding topic’s class period. This will allow you to be prepared for class discussions and help you retain the information conveyed in this course.

Grading Scale
A: ≥90 points  B: 89-80 points  C: 79-70 points  D:69-60 points  F <60 points

Grading
5 points  Attendance
5 points  Assignment 1: Stop Disasters Game: Challenges in Mitigation & Preparedness
15 points Assignment 2: Local Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
10 points  Skills Demo (3 short assignments)
25 points  Project: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Review
20 points  Midterm Exam
20 points  Final Exam
Total: 100 points

Attendance
Because we only meet once a week, every class meeting is essential to your success. To encourage your attendance, punctuality, and learning, I will take attendance at the beginning of class. Please plan to arrive on time and plan to stay the entire class. Students will be allowed 2 absences before their overall grade will be lowered 1 point for each additional absence (e.g. from 5 to 4), up to a total of 5 points. Therefore, there are no excused absences. However, this rule may be waived on a case-by-case basis for documented circumstances, (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, injury, etc.). In these special cases please contact me before class so I can work with you.

Students will also be penalized for arriving late to class or leaving early. After 2 tardies, each tardy or leaving early occurrence will result in a .5-point deduction from the attendance grade.

If you have to miss class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a fellow classmate. Though I do post my slides on Canvas, there is often a lot of information discussed and diagramed on the board during lecture. All material covered in class is important.

Midterm and Final Exam
To encourage you to keep up with the readings, lectures, and documentaries, a midterm and final exam will be given. The midterm exam is scheduled for October 17th and the final exam will be December 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Sage 354. These exams will consist of a combination of true/false, multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative. Exams must be completed on the scheduled exam date. Exam make-ups and rescheduled exams will be limited to special
circumstances (e.g. illness, death in the family, etc.) and with prior notification only. Make-up exams, if granted, may be different than the one given in class.

**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.” Specific instructions for this assignment are posted on Canvas. This assignment is due **October 3rd**.

**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 **October 31st**. More information about this assignment is posted on Canvas.

**Skills Demo Assignments.** Throughout the semester, we will be gaining hands-on experience using some of the tools and techniques commonly applied in mitigation and preparedness planning and implementation. These skills will be introduced during class and you will have the opportunity to practice them in class and/or at home. There will be three skills demo assignments assigned during the semester. The due dates are on the course schedule. These will all be turned in via Canvas.

**Group Project**
You will have the opportunity to apply the concepts and materials covered in this course to review a local or state hazard mitigation plan. The objectives of this project are to (1) demonstrate thorough understanding of the basic requirements of plan, (2) gain experience reviewing a plan, (3) gain exposure to what makes a strong plan versus what makes a weak plan, (4) enhance written and verbal communication skills, and (5) gain experience working in a team setting. More details about this project are on Canvas.

**E-Mail**
Students are welcome – and encouraged – to contact me and the TA using e-mail if you have any questions or would like make an appointment to visit outside of scheduled office hours. I generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them, however, I may take more time to reply during weekends or holidays.

All students are **REQUIRED** to have a UNT e-mail address. All e-mailed notifications pertaining to this class will be sent through those channels. Students are expected to maintain a high level of professionalism when writing e-mails. E-mails should include a proper salutation, use complete sentences, and conclude with the sender’s signature. Also please indicate what class you are in. E-mails should not resemble a text message (i.e. C U L8 R). Students are training to be emergency management professionals who will one day represent UNT and the EADP program. Any e-mails that are informal or unprofessional may not receive a response.
Department Mailbox
If you need to turn in an assignment outside of class time, you may bring the assignment to the EMDS offices located in Room 302 in Chilton Hall during regular office hours (9-5). Please ask the assistant at the front desk to time stamp the assignment and place it under my door or in my mailbox.

Cheating and Plagiarism
As future emergency management officials, it is imperative to maintain the upmost level of integrity and honesty. Your actions are not only a reflection of your character, but the reputation of this program and university. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The UNT definition and policy on cheating and plagiarism is found at the end of the syllabus. Plagiarism.Org, expands this definition to include:

- Turning in someone else’s work as your own
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of the quotation
- Changing words by copying the sentence structure
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of the work, whether you give it credit or not (i.e. copying and pasting from a variety of sources and calling it your own, even if you use citations.)

At a minimum, any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment or exam will receive a zero and a full letter grade reduction in the course. The instructor also reserves the right to assign the student an automatic F in the course. All instances of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Department and University for further disciplinary action. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and are unbecoming of future emergency managers and leaders of our communities. There are no second chances. Please, if you have any questions about whether you are citing sources correctly or if you are unsure whether you are plagiarizing or not, come see me before you hand in the assignment. I am more than happy to help.

Student Behavior
All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Students are expected to be respectful to the instructor, fellow classmates, and guest speakers. Any behavior that is disruptive or disrespectful – including but not limited to – talking when the instructor or fellow classmate is speaking, rudeness, listening to your i-pod, surfing the internet, checking Facebook, texting, talking on your cell phone, sleeping, etc. – will not be tolerated and the student will be asked to correct the behavior and/or asked leave the class. Additionally, no tobacco use of any form is permitted in class. Repeated offenses will result in a meeting with our program director and/or reporting to the College and University.

Use of Electronics
Students are welcome to use a laptop or tablet in class for the purpose of note-taking and completing in-class activities. Other uses of electronic devices for the purpose of entertainment (movies, social media etc.) are not allowed. Additionally, students do not
have permission to record the lecture. Violations may result in the student being reported to the Dean of Students for further discipline.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES

*End of the Semester Evaluations.* 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. The SPOT assessment is made available during the last 2 weeks of the course and the instructor will remind the students to complete this important process.

RELEVANT POLICIES TO THIS COURSE

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 http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 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 www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

PORTABLE 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, he or she will first be asked to refrain from such use, and, if the problem persists, will be asked to leave the classroom.

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)

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.
**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

Below is a tentative schedule for the course. Every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule however the schedule may change depending on the needs of the class. Any changes to the schedule will be addressed in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Introduction to Course, Syllabus, &amp; Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review of Hazard and Disasters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is Mitigation and Preparedness?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapter 1 and 2</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Labor Day – No Class 😊</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Meteorological Hazards</td>
<td>Notify instructor of county and hazard selected for the risk assessment (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skills Demo #1 Introduced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapter 3</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Meteorological Hazards (cont.) / Geologic Hazards</td>
<td>Skills Demo #1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skills Demo #2 Introduced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapters 3 and 4</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Geologic Hazards / All Hazards Approach</td>
<td>Skills Demo #2 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapters 3 and 4</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Intro to Mitigation and Preparedness Techniques I</td>
<td>Assignment # 1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapter 12</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Tools and Techniques II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapter 12</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam Review (In Class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Risk and Vulnerability Assessments</td>
<td>Skills Demo #3 Due Friday, October 28th at Noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schwab Chapter 12</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Preparing and Reviewing Hazard Mitigation Plans Workshop I</td>
<td>Assignment # 2 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>All materials will be posted on Canvas</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Nov. 7 | Role of the Federal, State, and Local Government in Mitigation  
Schwab Chapter 6 (6.1-6.4)  
Schwab Chapter 7 | Project: Plan Review Worksheet Due via Canvas. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Preparing and Reviewing Hazard Mitigation Plans Workshop I</td>
<td>Project: Individual Plan Review due at the beginning of class. Bring 2 copies!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Nov. 21 | Preparedness Policy, Planning, and THIRAs  
Schwab Chapter 11 | |
| Nov. 28 | Preparedness Policy, Planning, and THIRAs (Continued)  
Final Thoughts  
*James Schwab: 2010 Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning* - Posted on Canvas | |
| Dec. 5 | Class Presentations / Final Review | Project: Final Group Plan Review Due  
Project: Group PowerPoint Presentations Due |
| Dec. 12 | Final Exam 6:00-8:00pm | |

**All deadlines are 6pm on the noted due date unless noted otherwise.**