ENVS 103.03W Natural Disasters Environmental Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kayla Gibbs
University Email Address: kayla.gibbs@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication**:** email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours
If you prefer to discuss matter by phone, please email your number and a time to call you.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required: *Natural Disasters* by Patrick Abbott, Tenth (10th) Edition, McGraw Hill (a book copy is in the campus library)

Software Required: A dependable online server and computer hardware

Course Description

The course goals are designed to increase your awareness about global natural disasters. The Earth is definitely changing today, and this course will increase your understanding of the immense wonder of our amazing Blue Planet.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

The material and information for lecture will come from the **10th textbook edition,** and will be the primary focus of information for your weekly unit tests.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. **In the first part of this course,** you will be able to describe the ways natural disasters affect the human, cultural landscape;
2. **In the second part of this course,** you will be able to list the ways human beings influence the "*impact*" of natural disasters, and will analyze the ways modern societies can alter the natural landscape;
3. **During the entirety of the course,** you will be able to describe geographic locations around the globe, and list where natural disasters are occurring today; you will understand *why* natural disasters are increasing, and analyze *where* they may occur in the future;
4. **Each week during the course,** the student will learn time management and course responsibility by taking a scheduled weekly, chapter test;
5. Students will be able to describe both natural and man-made factors that **alter the severity** of natural disasters;
6. Students will project and analyze how natural disasters can effect human populations, *worldwide*;
7. Students will be able to explain ***how*** natural Earth processes produce earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, and other geologic natural disasters;
8. Students will be able to describe the physical methodologies that create both normal and extreme weather patterns;
9. Students will be able to list the factors that contribute to **man-made disasters.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

This online course requires Microsoft Word or a compatible Word program, dependable computer hardware, and a *VERY dependable server*. No extra software or hardware are required.

Instructional Methods

You will be utilizing various forms of learning tools available on-line, using your textbook, on-line lectures, and class discussions. You will be required to monitor specific websites throughout this course, and I will email you those links when applicable.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

If you *experience computer issues* during a test, **do NOT log out of your test** - immediately contact campus IT or the e-college hotline so they can witness the issues occurring at that time by using screen share. *If you log out, no one can help you resolve any problems, and you* ***will not get credit for missing the test.***

Note: when you quit a test session, always **click on the "*Exit Course*" button** at the bottom of your screen to save your work.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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

Assessments

- **Fifteen (15) unit exams** will be given; one (1) exam each week worth 100 pts each (100% of course grade);
- **No** Mid-term exam;
- **No** Final exam;
- I **drop** your lowest test grade;
- **No extra credit** assignments are offered;
- If you take all 15 tests, I will give you **2 points extra credit** on your final average;
- Each unit exam must be completed prior to starting the next unit, and will be available to take within a designated 48-hour period that is posted in the **Test Section** within each Unit;

- Each unit exam is timed - I allow ample time for each test (*1.5 to 2x)*, and exams are open book.

- No unit exams are accepted once the next unit has begun. This means **NO MAKE UP TESTS.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:
https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I check my email daily, and email anytime with questions or concerns. Your weekly test grades are posted after the weekly tests close. Your running average is available in the first column in the grade book.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

I open 2 days each week to schedule your tests, but I do not reopen the tests nor reschedule make-up times. Late exams or missed exams are not allowed, and I do not offer extra credit.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook. http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rules-Procedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rules-Procedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rules-Procedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResources-AndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus
document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Each unit's material will consist of:

1. An overview of the unit topic and the unit objectives. When you **click on a unit,** you will be taken to the requirements.

2. Lecture consists of both instructor lectures and emails and your **chapter reading assignments.**

3. **A weekly unit test will be required after each unit.** The weekly tests will be based on book material and instructor lecture.

4.There will be **no Mid-Term Exam or Final Exam** for this course. 100% of your grade comes from the weekly unit tests.

Course Content By Unit:

1. Human Disasters – **Unit 1 (Chapter 1).** Global geographic introduction into populations and their locations.

2. Internal Energy – **Unit 2 (Chapter 2).** Knowledge of the Earth's internal processes enhances a deeper understanding of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and violent storms.

3. Seismology – **Unit 3 (Chapter 3).** What is an earthquake? This unit requires understanding the different types of earthquakes, where they occur, and why.

4. PlateTectonics – **Unit 4 (Chapter 4).** The theory of Plate Tectonics and crustal movement provides the core to understanding many natural disasters.

5. Earthquakes in US and Canada – **Unit 5 (Chapter 5).** Studying past earthquakes in USA and Canada helps us predict future disasters, and hopefully, prevents human devastation in North America.

6. Tsunamis – **Unit 6 (skip to Chapter 8**). Earthquakes cause tsunamis, which are one of the most damaging natural disasters on Earth. Not every earthquake spawns a tsunami, and Unit 6 (Chapter 8 in your book) explains how they form and their dangers.

7. Volcanic Eruptions - **Unit 7 (back to Chapter 6**). Unit 7 introduces how a volcano forms, and where they are found along plate boundaries. Unit 7 requires daily monitoring of current volcanic eruptions.

8. Volcanoes From the Past - **Unit 8 (go back to Chapter 7**). You will learn about past volcanic eruptions to increase awareness for what can occur again in the future.

9. Weather and Climate – **Unit 9 (Chapter 9).** This unit introduces the mechanics driving the atmosphere, our climate and local weather. Before weather patterns can be understood, the energy systems fueling our air and water must be studied.

10. Tornadoes and Storms – **Unit 10 (Chapter 10).** This unit introduces how tornadoes and thunderstorms form.

11. Hurricanes – **Unit 11 (Chapter 11).** This unit introduces how hurricanes form and where they are the most common.

12. Climate Change – **Unit 12 (Chapter 12).** With the knowledge you have gained from the previous unit studies, this unit brings all the current issues of climate change to the forefront.

13. Floods – **Unit 13 (Chapter 13).** One of the biggest disasters caused by climate change is flooding. This unit explains why and where floods occur worldwide.

14. Wildfires – **Unit 14 (Chapter 14).** Human beings do not always start wildfires. Nature, through lightening and climate changes, ignite some of the most deadly wildfires known to man. These disasters occur when humans build neighborhoods and cities within natural areas prone to wildfires.

15. Space Objects- **Unit 15 (Chapter 17**)**.** This unit introduces the types of extraterrestrial objects that can impact the Earth and cause global natural dis- asters. (Chapter 17 in your book)