



## **ENVS 103.01W Natural Disasters**

### **Environmental Sciences**

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2020

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Janet Hull  
Office Location: online  
Office Hours: M-S 10:00-5:00  
University Email Address: [Janet.Hull@tamuc.edu](mailto:Janet.Hull@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: email  
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Textbook Required:** *Natural Disasters* by Patrick Abbott, Eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) Edition, McGraw Hill (an 11th edition 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 material and information for lecture will come from the **11th textbook edition**, and will be the primary focus of information for *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

- Seven (7) unit exams will be given; two (2) chapters and two (2) exams each week worth 100% of course grade;
- No Mid-term exam;
- No Final exam;
- No extra credit assignments are offered;
- If you take all 7 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.
- In summary, your only tests are over each chapter;
- No unit exams are accepted once the next unit has begun. This means **NO MAKE UP TESTS; I cannot re-open the tests once they have closed:**
- This course has no proctoring requirement.

## **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; no internet sites are allowed to be used for the tests.
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 Weekly 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. PlateTectonics – **Unit 3 (Chapter 4)**. The theory of Plate Tectonics and crustal movement provides the core to understanding many natural disasters.
4. Tsunamis – **Unit 4 (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.
5. Volcanic Eruptions - **Unit 5 (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.
6. Tornadoes and Storms – **Unit 6 (skip to Chapter 10)**. This unit introduces how tornadoes and thunderstorms form.
7. Space Objects- **Unit 7 (go to Chapter 17)**. This unit introduces the types of extraterrestrial objects that can impact the Earth and cause global natural disasters. (Chapter 17 in your book)

**I will email you a test schedule with the dates to record on your semester calendar.**

## **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](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](mailto: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 re-open the tests nor re-schedule make-up times. Late exams or missed exams are not allowed, and I do not offer extra credit work.**

### **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).  
<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](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/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/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.03)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **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.