



ENVS 301.01W — Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Janet Hull
Office Location: online
Office Hours: online M-S 10:00-5:00
Office Phone: 903-886-5378
Office Fax: 903-886-5997
University Email Address: Janet.Hull@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required *A Technical Guide For Performing And Writing Phase I Environmental Site Assessments*

(This book is for Phase I, but the information is the industry building block for the ERA and EIS report standards. In this course, you will build upon this information, and use the book as your guide.)

Software Required Microsoft Doc program or compatible program. **Submit reports in a docx format, or using pages if you use a MAC.**

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an **industry-standard protocol** for assessing **risks posing threats** to the natural environment. The definition of "potentially hazardous chemicals" varies from state to state, but the procedure for identifying toxins that impact the environment and their impact to plant and animal life requires a **basic and organized protocol** of defining the situation and designing remediation recommendations.

As a result of this course curriculum, you will be able to design and structure an industry standard assessment protocol.

This course will be a project course. You will be performing two major projects, an **Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)**, 50% of your grade, and an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**, 50% of your grade.

I will assign the project topics for this semester.

Prerequisites

I highly recommend taking Phase I Site Assessment as a pre-requisite for this class because learning the report format and requirements for the Phase I will prepare you for the similar formats used in RISK Assessments.

NOTE: There are various ERA and EIS report boilers available on the Internet, and I encourage you to compare these formats and use them as a guide, but **do not copy and paste** these reports. In all industries, plagiarism is an issue that you must be careful to avoid. **Use these reports as a "reference", but cite them as a reference as you reword and reformat any data available online.** Any plagiarized reports will be given a **zero**.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Compare and describe the differences** between an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
- Analyze and list the environmental factors that affect the environment and human populations;
- Describe a professional Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) on a current Superfund Site assigned by the instructor;
- Describe a professional Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on an environmental project site assigned by the instructor;
- Learn the advantages of using visuals and references within environmental reporting and assessing.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Instructional Methods

You will be utilizing various forms of learning tools and site records available online, as well as referencing your textbook and on-line discussions. You will be required to monitor specific government websites throughout this course, and I will email you those links when applicable. It is very helpful to actually visit or phone the county record offices.

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

Your final grade will be based on your:

- Efforts put into your two projects;
- Level of knowledge and research exhibited in your project reports;
- Completeness of your report, including organized references for your data, edited grammar (spelling and sentence structure), and clear conclusions appropriate to the information obtained;
- A professional quality of format, appearance, and detail of your project reports;
- **No plagiarism is accepted, especially when using report data accessible on the Internet; when using EPA online reports always “reference” them, cite them, or reword and reformat the data available online.**

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Each unit's material will consist of:

1. Each Unit provides an overview of the unit topics and the unit objectives. When you click on a unit, you will be taken to tips for the project requirements.
2. Lectures consist of both instructor emails and project tips.
3. There will be no Mid-Term Exam or Final Exam for this course. 100% of your grade comes from the two (2) environmental report projects.

Late papers are not allowed, and I do not offer extra credit.

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, so please email anytime with questions or concerns. Your project grades will be posted after the due dates close. Your grade average will be available in the first column in the grade book.

I really like teaching this course because I have worked in the field as a HAZWOPER engineer, firefighter, and environmental remediation project engineer *both domestically and internationally*. I was one of the first Americans to work on the remediation of the former Soviet army bases in Eastern Europe after Glasnost in the early 1990s.

All lecture materials for this course have come from my experiences in the field, and my report requirements are industry standards that I used when working in the field.

The time you spend for this course will be equal to the time spent for an on-campus course, yet this class is perfect for the on-line format. During future employment, any environmental investigation will be done outside of the office, so how you discipline yourself during this course will give you a hint on how well you will do when employed. How you organize your daily schedule is completely up to you, but, *as in the environmental field*, you must begin your project immediately so you **do not get behind**.

As long as the quality of your projects is up to my standards, you can complete and turn in your projects early for full credit.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late papers 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).
<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.britanica.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/policiesProceduresStandardsState-ments/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/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

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.

University's Pandemic Response

"A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

*Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel