

ENVS 103 W
Natural Disaster
Courses Syllabus: Summer I, 2025

Instructor: Dr. Lin Guo

Email: Lin.Guo@tamuc.edu

Classroom: Web based class

Office: online

Office hours: online 8-5 M-F

Time: 6/2/25-7/3/25

Text Book: **Recommended.** Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes, 5th Edition, by Edward A. Keller and Duane E. DeVecchio.

Course Description: This course introduces the scientific principles behind natural disaster formation, examines their impacts, presents relevant case studies, and covers essential disaster management knowledge.

Instructional Method: **The course is fully online.** Students need to study lectures, finish assignments and exams on D2L.

Learning Objectives: Upon completing of this course, you should be able to:

1. Distinguish between natural hazards and natural disasters.
2. Explain the underlying causes of various natural hazards.
3. Analyze the impacts and consequences of natural disasters.
4. Recognize key components of effective pre-disaster planning.
5. Identify critical response activities following natural disasters.

Competency Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion; be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
2. Communication: In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will be able understand and utilize mathematical functions and empirical

principles and processes.

4. Teamwork: Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

Paper writings, quizzes and project will be given to support and assess the learning objectives and competency student learning outcomes.

Article Writings:

To develop your critical thinking and written communication skills, you will read **an assigned article** on D2L and submit a typed review (12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing). The review must include two full paragraphs: **First**, conclude the key information of the article (about one half to one page); In the second paragraph (about one half to one page), please critique of the article with substantive or evidence-driven argument. The reviews should be sent to D2L **before 5 pm on Jun 12 and Jun 19**. Source of information must be referenced. Assignments are expected to be submitted on time.

Quizzes:

A total of **nine quizzes** will be administered to assess your comprehension of key concepts from each chapter.

Group Project:

To develop and assess your teamwork skills, you will collaborate in groups of **3-6 students** to do research about a case of natural disaster not covered in this course. Then submit a paper as a group to comprehensively address the causes of the disaster; harmful effects on communities and environments; any relevant disaster planning strategies may be used and response activities should be implemented after the events.

The paper should be **at least 4 pages** (12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing) and should be sent to **D2L before 5 pm on July 2**. Plagiarized papers will receive a zero score! **You must find team members by yourself through D2L**. Assignments are expected to be submitted on time.

Grades:	Nine quizzes	180 points	A≥90%
	Articles writing	30 points	B≥80%
	Project	20 points	C≥70%
	Total	230 points	D≥60%

Topics and schedule: The following topics will be included in class. The schedule is approximate and subject to change.

Jun 2-Jun 6 Introduction; Earthquakes;	Jun 9-Jun 13 Tsunamis; Volcanoes
Jun 16-Jun 20 Tropical Cyclones; Floods	Jun 23-Jun 27 Droughts; Desertification
Jun 30-July 3 Deforestation	

University Procedures:

The teaching/learning materials will be posted in D2L. Students can access to those materials anytime. However, all the assignments are expected to be finished on time.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities.

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, East Texas A&M University

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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

ETAMU Attendance:

Students are required to attend all sections. Be late for class and/or leaving early will be treated as absences. The final grades may be affected by the absences. **Official documents** (e.g. doctor's letter) must be presented if you ask for a leave from class or it will be treated as an absence.

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/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity:

Students at East Texas A&M University 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>

Nondiscrimination Notice:

East Texas A&M University 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.

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/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Early Intervention for First Year Students:

Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Campus carry rules:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Technology Requirement

D2L Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using D2L, the learning management system used by East Texas A&M. To get started with the course, go to myLeo, then select Apps, and then select myleo online (D2L Brightspace).

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.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course, please contact me **via email**. Generally, emails will be answered within 24 hrs. If I can not answer emails on time, I will let you know in advance.

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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**](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)