

# ENVS 103 01B Natural Disasters

## 1) Course information

**Course:** ENVS 103 01B Natural Disasters

**Semester:** Fall 2026

**Credits:** 3

## 2) Instructor information: Marzieh Asadi Aghbolaghi

**Office:** Science Building (STC), Office ....

**Class Meeting Time:** *(To be updated based on the official schedule in MyLeo/D2L.)*

**Office Hours:** By appointment or during scheduled office hours

**Course Website:** D2L Brightspace @ myLeo

**Email:** [asadi.marzieh@etamu.edu](mailto:asadi.marzieh@etamu.edu)

## Recommended Book:

**Title:** Natural Disasters, 10th Edition, 2017

**Imprint:** The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc., New York, NY, USA. Author: Abbott, P. A.

ISBN: 9780078022982

**Titel:** Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters and Catastrophes

**Authors:** Edward A. Keller & Duane E. DeVecchio

**Edition:** 6th edition

**Year:** 2021

**ISBN:** 9780137516503

**Format:** eTextbook available

**Additional materials:** Handouts and academic worksheets

## 3) Course description

This course is designed to introduce students to the science of major natural disasters, exploring their causes, impacts, and mitigation strategies. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the mechanisms underlying natural disasters and the environmental, economic, and societal implications of disasters.

## 4) Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand natural and human-made disasters, their causes, effects, severity, energy sources, warning systems, and safety measures. Collaborate effectively in team environments.
- Cultivate a routine habit of reading scientific literature.
- Develop clear communication skills for public presentations.

## **Learning Strategies and Course Requirements**

- Read assigned textbook chapters and supplemental materials.
- Analyze and synthesize scientific literature in written assignments.
- Participate in individual and collaborative group work.
- Maintain proficiency using the D2L Brightspace (myLeo Online) platform.

## **Instructional Methods**

This course meets in person using a traditional lecture format. Course materials—including textbook chapters, supplemental readings, and PowerPoint slides—will be delivered both in class and via myLEO Online. Quizzes and exams will evaluate your understanding of these materials. Important announcements and grade tracking will be posted on the D2L Brightspace course homepage, though critical reminders will also be shared during lectures.

## **Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success**

- Dedicate study time: Spend consistent time each week reviewing lectures and textbook chapters.
- Stay informed: Check your university email and the myLEO Online homepage daily for updates.
- Submit work promptly: Complete all assignments on time to avoid late penalties.

## **5) Grading information**

Attendance, assignments, and quizzes are required. I encourage interactive participation even though it is an online class. Homework, group projects, and a term paper are required.

### **Grade basis:**

- 4 Short exams (400 points)
- 5 assignments (50 points)
- 1 research project (100)
- Final exam 450 points

Penalty enforcement (I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the minimum expectations).

Make-up quizzes will be given only if arrangements are made with the instructor before the scheduled quiz is missed. A documented excuse will be required. Otherwise, missing quizzes will be counted as zeroes in the overall grad computation.

### Grading Scale:

90.0 – 100% = A

80.0 - 89.9% = B

70.0 - 79.9% = C

60.0 – 69.9% = D

<60.0% = F

**Short exams (5):** Short exams will cover the material discussed each week.

### Assignments (5): Journal articles

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. For each assigned date, a journal is named in the right column of the table. Choose and read a paper from that journal that you find interesting or relevant. These journals are available in our library (online resources). On that date, provide me with a citation and a short description of the paper (10 sentences).

| Date       | Journal                                          |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| WEEK 1-3   | Natural Hazards                                  |
| WEEK 3-6   | Natural Hazards Review                           |
| WEEK 6-9   | International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction |
| WEEK 9-12  | Disasters                                        |
| WEEK 12-15 | npj Natural Hazards                              |

### Research Project and Presentation:

You will work in groups of **three** to develop a research project (literature review) on a specific technique or set of techniques used to study mammals. **I will assign a research topic and a reference to each group** to help you get started. Your project should include the following sections:

- Introduction
- Methodologies used to study your topic
- Results
- Discussion

The presentations will take place during the **last week of class**. Each group will deliver a **5–10-minute presentation** summarizing its research.

In addition, each group must prepare **three questions with their corresponding answers** based on the presentation. Please print copies of the questions and answers to share with your classmates.

During the final exam, I will select **one question from each group**.

Finally, submit the following materials to the assigned Dropbox:

- Your presentation

- The three questions and their answers
- The written component of your literature review

**6) Assessments/course schedule (adjustments may be made later at the instructor's discretion)**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>                                                                                                                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WEEK 1      | Welcome/Introduction<br>Introduction to Natural Disasters                                                                      |
| WEEK 2      | Global Scenarios of Natural Disasters<br>Socioeconomic Impacts of Natural Disasters<br>Examples of Different Natural Disasters |
| WEEK 3      | Internal energy causes natural disasters<br>Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, Tsunami                          |
| WEEK 4      | <b>Short exams 1 (Week 1, Week 2, Week 3)</b><br>Examples of Different Natural Disasters                                       |
| WEEK 5      | Internal energy causes natural disasters                                                                                       |
| WEEK 6      | Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, Tsunami                                                                      |
| WEEK 7      | <b>Short exams 2 (Week 4, Week 5, Week 6)</b><br>External energy caused natural disasters                                      |
| WEEK 8      | Tornadoes, Lightning and thunderstorms, Hurricanes, and Floods                                                                 |
| WEEK 9      | Mass movements                                                                                                                 |
| WEEK 10     | <b>Short exams 3 (Week 7, Week 8, Week 9)</b><br>Coastal processes and hazards                                                 |
| WEEK 11     | Natural Disasters and Human Populations                                                                                        |
| WEEK 12     | Risk Assessment                                                                                                                |
| WEEK 13     | <b>Short exams 4 (Week 10, Week 11, Week 12)</b>                                                                               |
| WEEK 14     | Research Projects and Presentation                                                                                             |
| WEEK 15     | <b>Final Exam</b>                                                                                                              |

## **7) Required policy statements**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the *my*LEO 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)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool:

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

### **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, an ETAMU 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**

Response time to any questions sent by email regarding the course will be answered within 72 hours. However, students are encouraged to interact with the instructor directly during the class time and office hours, if necessary. Exceptions such as widespread internet outage apply.

## **Course and University Procedures/Policies:**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies:**

You are expected to check your ETAMU email and d2l every day to check for any announcements. Additional information about all course assessment components is provided under “Course Evaluations”. Please do not attend class if feeling ill, if an illness occurs during a course assessment, please see the “General Makeup Policy” section above for guidance.

### **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.

<https://inside.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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **ETAMU 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/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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **AI Statement**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty**

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty**

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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*

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

### **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.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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 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. at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health**

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)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus

Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>