



ENVS 103 01E Natural Disasters, Section #20710

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lucina Kuusisto

Class Location: MWF 10:00a-10:50a, Location: BA 258

Office Location: Science Building (STC), 208

Office Hours: T R from 3:30-4:45 PM

Office Phone: 903.886.5221

Office Fax: 903-886-5997

University Email Address: Lucina.Kuusisto@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: Weekdays: 1-24 hours; Evenings, Weekends: 5--48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Recommended: Title: Natural Disasters, 10th Edition

Year: 2017

Title status: Available

Imprint: The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc., New York, NY, USA.

Author: Abbott, P. A.

ISBN: 9780078022982

Software Required: MS Office

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Handouts and Academic worksheets

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of natural disasters, including an examination of the major disasters, plate tectonics, volcanism, tsunamis-hurricanes storms, tornados, climate change, floods, and fire among others. An emphasis will also be placed on understanding on the mechanisms of why natural disasters occur.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the physical mechanisms that combine to form both normal and extreme weather patterns.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

2. Explain how tectonic plate dynamics result in earthquakes, volcanoes, and other geologic natural disasters.
3. List the factors that contribute to other types of disasters such as biological, cosmological, or human-made disasters.
4. Describe the factors that tend to increase or decrease the severity of natural disasters, and what the effects of natural disasters are on human populations worldwide.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Algebra, engineering math, basic chemistry.

In addition, using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

Conducting lectures, resorting to videos and visual-aid presentations, e.g., "PowerPoint" and "You tube", solving math problems together with the students in the classroom, expecting student participation in the classroom discussions, assigning Exams and homework assignments, etc.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Turn-in all the assigned academic work; actively participate in verbal discussions; take notes and copy written explanations during class periods; take assigned written Exams; log into the course website, regularly; complete the assigned weekly study.

Learning strategies

Lectures

Reading assignments to be discussed in class

Analysis of Case Study Samples

Individual work, analysis of free reading

Homework

Assumptions, Expectations, Philosophy

University students are a select group of students soon to be professionals.

Instructors can have high expectations of student performance.

Demanding courses benefit students more than easy courses.

Assignments are due on time unless you have made a prior arrangement with me (only granted for unusual or extenuating circumstances and in case of health issues proper medical excuse is required).

Come to class prepared, having read and thought about the assigned readings; course materials are meant to be studied, not merely read. Actively participate in class discussions; ask questions.

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In university, a lot of your learning will occur outside of the classroom, during your own research, and in formal and informal interactions with your peers—both here and at meetings, correspondence, etc. Therefore, I expect you to take full advantage of ALL learning opportunities, including seminars and invited speakers.

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. This will help you become a better writer, a more rounded individual, and expose you to subjects outside of your immediate knowledge.

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

Tentative course outline

Part I. Introduction and basic principles of Natural Disasters (ch.

Most used terms

Human landscapes

Natural hazards

week: 1

Part II. Plate tectonics and volcanism (chs. 2-8)

Plate tectonics

Earthquake geology and seismology

Volcanic eruptions

Tsunamis

week: 2-6

Part III. Weather and Climate

External energy (chs. 9-11, 12, 13-14)

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Tornados, lightening

Hurricanes

Floods

Fire

Climate Change

week: 7-11

Part IV. Mass movements and Coastal Processes (chs. 15-16)

Mass movements

Coastal processes and hazards

week: 12-13

Part V. Extraterrestrial objects (ch. 17)

Space objects

week: 14

Assessments

Course Requirements and Evaluation Methods:

Attendance and punctuality is required and non-negotiable.

Homework, quizzes, exams, and term paper are required.

Activities that distract surrounding people are inconsiderate and disrespectful.

Activities such as texting, emailing, browsing or using cellular phones are prohibited during Lecture.

We encourage student contribution to the overall progress of the group.

We encourage interactive participation.

It is necessary that students have a professional and ethical behavior through the entire course.

Lectures are a group activity, and so it requires social consideration and respect amongst members of the group, teachers and professors.

Grade basis:

1 Test (Midterm)	20 %
4 Quizzes (4 x 10 % each)	40 %
1 Classroom Presentation	
NOTE: Explain what to do during Natural Disaster ...	20 %
1 Final Exam	<u>20 %</u>
Total:	100 %

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

Make-up exams will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor before missing the scheduled exam. A documented excuse will be required.

Otherwise, **missing academic work** will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

NOTE #1: Late assignments are not accepted. Very, very extreme circumstances may or may not provide a warranted exception. This course moves very fast and there is not enough time to catch up. In case of extreme circumstances, I may accept late work. However, 10 points will be deducted from late assignments.

Research Written Report and Oral Presentation: Each student will choose 1 type of treatment technology. The guidelines for the Written Report and Oral Presentation are in "D2L".

NOTE #2: Please email your presentation to the Professor, before your Presentation day.

NOTE #3: Missed Homework and Exams are not acceptable. Very, very extreme circumstances may or may not provide a warranted exception. This course moves very fast and there is not enough time to catch up. In case of extreme circumstances, I may accept let you take a missed Exam or submit a missed Homework. However, 20 points may be deducted from the missed Exam or from the missed Homework.

Overall Weighted Average Grade will be computed by adding the percentage of each grade earned from each assignment, as stated on the Course Grading table, shown above. **ONLY** unofficial grades will be posted on D2L. Official grades are in my grade book. It is most strongly recommended that each student retain their grades until the final grade has been entered into the university system to ensure all was recorded correctly.

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

Weekdays: 1-24 hours; Evenings, Weekends: 5--48 hours

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](#).

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

<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/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](#)

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<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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Meet from January 13th through May 8th

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

ENVS 103 01E Natural Disasters

MWF 10:00a-10:50a, Location: BA 258

Section #20710

Course Schedule: Spring 2020 (This schedule is subject to change)

Week	Monday	Unit	Assignment
1	Jan 13	1 Disasters & Humans	
2	Jan 20	2 Internal Energy	Quiz #1
3	Jan 27	3 Seismology	
4	Feb 3	4 Plate Tectonics	
5	Feb 10	5 Earthquakes	Quiz #2
6	Feb 17	6 Volcanic Eruptions	
7	Feb 24	7 Volcanoes	
8	March 2	8 Tsunamis	Quiz #3
	3/09-13	Spring Break	
9	March 11	9 Dust Storms	Mid Term Exam
10	March 25	10 Tornadoes	
11	April 1	11 Hurricanes	Student Presentation
12	April 8	12 Climate Change	Student Presentation
13	April 15	13 Floods	Quiz #4
14	April 22	14 Fire	Student Presentation
15	April 29	15 Space Objects	Student Presentation
16	May 6	Final	Final (Comprehensive)

NOTE: Student Presentation: Also explain what to do in the case of a Natural Disaster

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