ENVS 104.01W, 104.02W and 104L.LW Labs
Natural Disasters
SYLLABUS

Instructor: Janet Hull
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Natural Disasters* by Patrick Abbott, Eight Edition. McGraw Hill.

Course Description:

This course is designed to increase your awareness about Natural Disasters. The Earth is definitely on the move today, and understanding *why* more natural disasters are occurring will increase your appreciation of the immense power of our planet.

The material and information for lecture will come from my personal research and publications; reading the textbook is imperative because it will be the focus of information on your unit tests. The recommended Internet resources I will give you are required to monitor *daily* for the information required for your mapping exercises. This will be a lot of data to read and study, but the object is to achieve an understanding of the basic material.

This course will be fairly intensive, and you will have to spend some time becoming familiar with geographic locations, worldwide. If you are on campus, you will find it worthwhile to look at the maps and globes in the library. As a result of this course, you will develop a renewed appreciation of the Earth and its inhabitants.

Prerequisites:

Intro to Geography, ENVS, or Geology preferred, but not required.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. In the first part of this course, you will learn how natural disasters affect the cultural landscape;
2. In the second part of this course, you will learn how human beings influence the "impact" from natural disasters by altering the natural landscape;
3. During the entirety of the course, you will learn global geographic locations and become familiar with where natural disasters occur today, why they are increasing, and where they may occur in the future.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

A. Read each unit's overview, lecture, and textbook assignments.

B. Complete all lab/mapping assignments and place into the Dropbox at the designated time. The mapping assignments serve as your lab credit, so your lab + lecture will combine through the lecture section.

C. Complete an exam after each unit, beginning with Unit One.

Grading:

A. Fifteen (15) unit exams; 100 pts each (75% of course grade)

B. Twelve (12) mapping/lab assignments; 100 pts each (25% of course grade)

Unit Assignments:

- Each unit exam must be completed prior to starting the next unit, and will be available to take anytime within a designated 48-hour period.
- Each unit exam is timed, and exams can be open book. No unit exams are graded once the next unit has begun.
- You will have fifteen (15) unit exams; no Midterm and no Final exams will be given for this class;
- You will have one (1) mapping assignment per unit as a lab exercise; the maps are to be placed into that unit Dropbox before your unit exam; I personally grade all maps.
- I will not accept map/lab assignments after their due date.

Grade Scale:

The grading for this class is standard:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- Below 60 = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

We will be utilizing various forms of learning tools available on-line, through lecture, your textbook, and on-line discussions. You will be required to monitor

specific websites throughout this course, and will be submitting weekly mapping projects to me through the Dropbox icon on your course toolbar.

If you experience computer issues during a test, do NOT log out of your test and immediately contact ecollege - this way they can witness the issues occurring at that time. If you log out, no one can help you resolve any problems, and you will not get credit for the test.

Each unit's material will consist of:

- An overview of the unit topic, the unit objectives, and the unit lab assignments. When you click on a unit, you will be taken first to the requirements.
- Lecture consists of both my notes and your chapter reading assignments. Your unit assignments will be at the bottom of the lecture page, and details are within the assignment page.
- A unit test will be required after each unit. The tests will be based on lecture, book material, recommended Internet resources, and mapping. There will be no Mid-Term Exam or Final Exam for this course. 75% of your grade comes from the unit tests, and 25% of your grade comes from your lab assignments and mapping.

If the course software is new to you, it may help to go through the software tutorial. How to get started:

1. e-mail me to let me know that you are on line;
2. Read through the syllabus;
3. Click Unit 1 to read the unit overview;
4. Read your chapter assignments and the lecture notes for Unit 1;
5. Don't hesitate to contact ecollege with any questions – they are great. *The eCollege HelpDesk is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The*

HelpDesk can be reached by sending an email to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org or by calling 1-866-656-5511.

Note: when you quit a session, always click on the "Exit Course" button at the bottom of your screen to save your work.

Students taking online classes at Texas A&M University-Commerce have the same rights as students enrolled in on-ground classes. The A&M-Commerce Student Guidebook details those rights and explains complaint and grievance procedures, as well as the Student Code of Conduct. Students have the right to appeal course grades, admissions committee decisions, or any adverse action taken by any *online* faculty against any student. The appeals process is the same for all types of appeals.

The student should first attempt to resolve the problem directly with the involved faculty member.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

I have a particular love for this course because I have taught Natural Disasters at A&M Commerce for the past three years, and have recently written a book about the increase in natural disasters caused by recent Earth changes. All lectures during this course will be from my research and my new book (currently under publication query). You will need to read each designated chapter in your textbook, also, as the unit tests focus on these chapters.

I monitor my gmail daily, so you can send me a message anytime. I will answer you back within 24 hours. Please feel free to email me at anytime to ask questions, and the best email to reach me is actually drjshull@gmail.com. You can also email at Janet.Hull@tamuc.edu, but I keep my gmail account open more than the TAMUC account.

The time you spend for this course will be equal to the time spent for an on-ground course + lab credit. There are fifteen (15) units to complete for the lecture session + lab assignments. How you organize your daily schedule is completely up to you, but you must finish a minimum of 1 unit each week + labs. A unit test will be given after each unit. This week you will need to finish the first unit, and begin your mapping assignment. This course isn't hard, but it does consume a lot of time, especially completing your mapping activities - daily. If you don't get behind, you'll make it through O.K.

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Content By Unit:

1. Mapping – Unit 1. Global geographic locations of continents, major seas and oceans, mountain ranges, islands and countries in relation to global population concentrations. This mapping provides the framework to understand the impact from natural disasters.
2. Internal Earth Forces – Unit 2. Knowledge of the Earth's internal processes enhances a deeper understanding of earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and violent storms.
3. Seismology – Unit 3. What is an earthquake? This unit requires understanding the different types of earthquakes, where they occur, and why. Lab 3 is global mapping of the earthquake boundaries worldwide.

4. Plate Tectonics – Unit 4. The theory of Plate Tectonics and crustal movement provides the core to understanding many natural disasters. This unit requires global mapping of earthquakes.

5. Earthquake Locations – Unit 5. Studying past earthquakes helps us predict future disasters, and hopefully, prevents human devastation. This unit requires global mapping of current earthquake locations.

6. Tsunamis– Unit 6. 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.

7. Volcanic Eruptions - Unit 7. This unit requires mapping of the world's active volcanoes. Unit 7 introduces how a volcano forms, and where they are found. Unit 7 requires daily mapping of current volcanic eruptions.

8. Volcanoes - Unit 8. This unit continues mapping the active volcanoes, worldwide. You will learn about past volcanic eruptions to increase awareness for what can occur again in the future. Unit 8 requires daily mapping of current volcanic eruptions.

9. Weather and Climate – Unit 9. This unit introduces the mechanics driving the atmosphere, our climate and local weather. Before weather patterns can be understood, the energy systems fueling our air and water must be studied.

10. Tornadoes and Storms – Unit 10. This unit introduces how tornadoes and thunderstorms form.

11. Hurricanes – Unit 11. This unit introduces how hurricanes form and where they are the most common.

12. Climate Change – Unit 12. With the knowledge you have gained from the previous unit studies, this unit brings all the current issues of climate change to the forefront.

13. Floods – Unit 13. One of the biggest disasters caused by climate change is flooding. This unit explains why and where floods occur worldwide.

14. Fire – Unit 14. Human beings do not always start wildfires. Nature, through lightening and climate changes, ignite some of the most deadly wildfires

known to man. These disasters occur when humans build neighborhoods and cities within natural areas prone to wildfires.

15. Space Objects- Unit 15. This unit introduces the types of extraterrestrial objects that can impact the Earth and cause global natural disasters. (Chapter 16 in your book)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

On-line courses are dependent on your course syllabus. Make sure you read the syllabus carefully! The #1 key to success on-line is to keep up with your assignments every day. Do not procrastinate on any assignments or you will fall behind.

I took most of my graduate courses for my PhD on-line, and absolutely loved them. I set my own pace and finished each class by the deadlines, so I have designed teaching my on-line classes in a similar format. The tests for each unit will be given once each week, and all unit tests will be open book. The tests are timed, however, so you must know this material **before** each exam. No labs will be accepted late, after the unit test has closed.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

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 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*