ENVS 103 01E Natural Disasters, Section #81206
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lucina Kuusisto
Office Location: Science Building (STC), 208
Office Hours: MWF from 2-5 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: 1-4 hours; Evenings, Weekends: 5-24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Recommended: Title: Natural Disasters, 10th Edition
Year: 2017
Title status: Available
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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
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.
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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.
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.

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

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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)
  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

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ENVS 103 01E Natural Disasters  
MWF 9:00a-9:50a, Location: BA 244  
Section #81206

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) ................................................................. 30 %  
Homework Modules (4 x 2.5 % each) .............................. 10 %  
1 Classroom Presentation  

  NOTE: Explain what to do during Natural Disaster ... 25 %  
1 Final Exam ................................................................. 35 %

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 exams will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

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.

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.

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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

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Weekdays: 1-4 hours; Evenings, Weekends: 5-24 hours

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific 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.

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, 25 points will be deducted from the missed Exam or from the missed Homework.

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.

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

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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


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

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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](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: [http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf](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 August 26th through December 13th
**Course Schedule: Fall 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>1 Disasters &amp; Humans</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>2 Internal Energy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>3 Seismology</td>
<td>Homework #1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>4 Plate Tectonics</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>5 Earthquakes</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>6 Volcanic Eruptions</td>
<td>Homework #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>7 Volcanoes</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>8 Tsunamis</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>9 Climate</td>
<td>Homework #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>10 Tornadoes</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>11 Hurricanes</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>12 Climate Change</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>13 Flooding</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>14 Fire</td>
<td>Homework #4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>14 Space Objects</td>
<td>Student Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Final (Comprehensive), Wed, Dec 11th</td>
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NOTE: Student Presentation: Also explain what to do in the case of a Natural Disaster.

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