ANTH 4701 Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology - Disaster Anthropology: Conflict, Collaboration, and Resilience – Spring 2022

Instructor Contact

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Course Meetings: Mondays 6:00-8:50PM, Lang 310

Course Description

This course explores anthropological approaches to the social experience of disasters, both "natural" and human-made. We will cover a range of factors impacting human security including climate change, environmental pollution, war and political violence, and social inequity. Incorporating perspectives of local peoples worldwide in historical and contemporary settings as well as government and transnational organizations' approaches, this course focuses on the social dimensions of risk, vulnerability, security, and well-being, as well as various strategies for responding to disasters.

Course Structure

This course meets once a week on Mondays from 6:00-8:50PM. It will take place face-to-face in the classroom, with additional content and modules available on Canvas. We will spend roughly one week on each module. Students should come to class each week ready to discuss that week's readings.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

This is an intermediate Anthropology course. Although, there are no required prerequisites for this course, basic UNT CORE requirements including but not limited to ANTH 1010 or ANTH 2300 are highly recommended.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Increase sensitivity to social issues as they relate to the experience of disasters and critically evaluate research and theory in the study of individuals, institutions, and cultures that shape those experiences.

2. Establish skills in discussing complex, contemporary issues in disaster studies with course colleagues using anthropological terms and concepts.

3. Critically read and evaluate theory and ethnography of disaster and apply key concepts and themes in the literature.

4. Outline and execute an original research project concerning course themes.

5. Orally present research in a logical, thoughtful, and engaging fashion.

6. Illustrate growth in written and oral communication skills over the course of the semester.

7. Demonstrate improved critical thinking skills over the course of the semester.

Materials

There are two required books for this course:

1. Browne, Katherine E. 2015. *Standing in the need: Culture, Comfort, and Coming Home after Katrina.* Austin: University of Texas Press.

2. Hoffman, Susanna M. and Anthony Oliver-Smith, eds, 2002. *Catastrophe and Culture: The Anthropology of Disaster*. Santa Fe: School of American Research.

3. Additional readings will be provided in Canvas.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements
While this is an in-person class, students will be expected to use Canvas to access course materials and submit some assignments. This will be especially important in cases of isolation or quarantine. Please ensure that you are able to access the following minimum technology requirements:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Microsoft Office Suite or other compatible word processing software
- Canvas Technical Requirements (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Technical Assistance
Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT IT Help Desk
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Live Chat:
https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330
Hours and Availability: Visit https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk for up-to-date hours and availability

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-

10554-4212710328)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual's experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

Assessments

Discussion Participation - **150 points**

Due: In class, weekly

We will participate in group discussions about each week's readings, designed to engage with the learning objectives for that module. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class and arrive ready to discuss them in an insightful, thoughtful, and courteous manner. Discussion participation will be graded on the basis of the quality of engagement with both 1) the content of the readings and 2) discussion group peers. (50 points)

Beginning in Week 3, 1-2 students will be assigned to open class discussion by presenting a 1/2 - 1 page summary of that week's reading and to provide at least 2 thoughtful discussion questions. (100 points)

*There will be no make-up opportunities for discussion participation. Students who are isolating or quarantining due to COVID-19 should contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible to make arrangements for remote participation.

Exams - **400 points**

Due: Monday, February 14; Monday, April 18

There will be two exams in this course. They will be a mixture of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. The exams will focus on terms discussed in class as well as the readings and supplemental materials. They will provide students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the course content and to apply critical thinking skills. The exams will be administered on Canvas during regular class time. Students who require additional time or other accommodations to complete the exam should provide the instructor with an accommodation letter from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) stating this in advance. Do not wait until the last minute to make these arrangements. See the ADA Policy section of the syllabus for further instructions.

There will be no make-up examinations except in the case of a documented EXCUSED absence. However, there will be an opportunity to take an OPTIONAL Final Exam to replace your lowest exam grade. The finale exam will be cumulative.

Research Paper – 350 points

Due: Proposal – March 7; Outline – April 11; Final Paper – May 9; Submitted on Canvas

Choose a research topic of your choice related to one or more of the weekly course topics and themes covered in this class that you would like to research further. You may select a topic that is covered in one of the assigned readings and perform additional in-depth research or you may select an original topic of your choice to which the course concepts can be applied. For example, you could choose to do an in-depth study of a particular disaster or a discussion of a specific theme (e.g. resilience, vulnerability) in relation to multiple disasters. Your paper should demonstrate anthropological analysis of your chosen subject and put your findings in conversation with at least two readings or concepts from class in addition to outside *scholarly* sources. Your research paper should be 7-10 pages (PLUS a bibliography), double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. It will be submitted on Canvas.

If you are having trouble selecting a topic or are unsure if your chosen topic is appropriate, feel free to discuss it with me after class or during office hours. We will discuss requirements and strategies for writing each portion of the assignment in more detail during class throughout the semester.

You will be required to submit a 200-300 word research proposal (50 points) which states the topic you have chosen and how it is related to course concepts by March 7, and a detailed outline (50 points) with at least 5 scholarly references by April 11. The final paper (250 points) is due on May 9. The proposal and outline will be graded for completion and provide an opportunity to gain feedback on your progress. The more detailed they are, the better feedback you will receive.

Research Project Presentation - 100 points

Due: Monday, May 2

This benchmark presentation will be a personalized and creative application of the course learning objectives. At end-of-semester, students will prepare a short (approximately 3-5 minute) presentation of their research project for the class. The presentation should summarize the topic of the project, describe the main thesis, and connect it to at least one anthropological concept or reading we discussed during the semester. Students who are attending remotely due to isolation or quarantine will submit video presentations either in a Flipgrid or another permitted, accessible presentation format.

Extra Credit

To be determined at discretion of instructor. Any extra credit opportunities will be announced on Canvas and made available to all students in the course.

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Participation	150 points	15%
First Exam	200 points	20%
Second Exam	200 points	20%
Research Paper	350 points	35%
Presentation of Research Project	100 points	10%
Optional Final Exam (replaces lowest exam score)	(200 points)	*
Total Points Possible	1000 points	100%

Expectations, Requirements, and Responsibilities

1. Access and follow all course instructions found in the Modules area of the course CANVAS page.

2. Complete all readings and exercises for the Module prior to class each week and actively participate in class discussions.

3. Upload assignments and quizzes in a timely manner to CANVAS in an acceptable format.

4. Communicate with your instructor as soon as possible if you are having difficulties keeping up with the coursework. Email Dr. Griffin or make an appointment for in-person or virtual office hours.

Grading

All grades will be issued on a letter basis. Here is an achievement scale for each letter designation:

- A = 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. Performs well above the minimum criteria.)

- B = 80-89% (Good, impressive work. Performs above the minimum criteria.)

- C = 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. Meets the criteria of the assignment.)

- D = 60-69% (Below average work. Fails to meet the minimum criteria.)

- F = 59 and below (Fails to complete the assignment.)

Assignment Policies

Assignments will be due ON THE DATE ASSIGNED by 11:59pm. All work submitted for credit must be ORIGINAL works created by the student uniquely for this class, for the Spring 2022 session. If a student is re-taking ANTH 4701 then they must seek the approval of Dr. Griffin prior to re-submitting work; otherwise it will be considered plagiarism.

Papers submitted via any other medium than CANVAS will not be accepted. Submission portals on CANVAS close at 11:59pm on the night that assignments are due. Plan to submit well before the deadline in order to account for technical difficulties. Technical difficulties do not constitute an "excused" reason for late submission of assignments.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work

Late submissions of papers and quizzes will be accepted and no penalty shall be imposed if they are accompanied with any of the following at the time of submission:

1) Medical documentation (signed by a medical professional);

2) ODA Accommodations Letter that specifically lists late submission as an accommodation;

3) Dean's Memo.

Missing discussion participation opportunities accompanied by any of the aforementioned documentation will be granted an EXEMPTION.

Travel (work, vacation, moving, etc.) for any reason other than a University-approved activity will not be considered excused absence.

Extra credit opportunities may be made available throughout the semester, so watch the course announcements in CANVAS.

Extensions

Extension requests for assignments without documentation will be considered if requested in writing (via email) to Dr. Griffin at least 24 hours PRIOR to the due date of the assessment. There are no extensions for discussion participation. **Late penalty may be assessed for any unexcused late work in the amount of ½ letter grade per day.** Late work must be completed within one week of the due date.

Turnaround Time

I will endeavor to submit grades for written assignments within 1 week of submission date when turned in on time.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. These will be made available towards the end of the semester.

Course Policies

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

 If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include access to Canvas and an email account. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Syllabus Change Policy

Any changes to the syllabus, course information, or due dates will be communicated via CANVAS in the Announcements page. Please check CANVAS regularly (at least weekly) in order to keep up with any changes.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus below.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be

delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can add your pronouns to your Canvas account so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- How do I use pronouns?
- How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person's pronouns?
- How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

Additional Student Support Services
- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services
- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)

- UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)