Course Meeting Time
Thursday, 9-12, UTA 1.506B
Several class meetings will be held in other locations.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to examine how and why disasters occur with emphasis on audio and
electronic media. Previous experience with audio materials will enrich the experience, but is not required.
There are no pre-requisites for this course. This course requires substantial participation from students
including directing the research focus, designing experiments and adapting the course schedule. Much of
the work is hands-on and students will need to handle fragile and dirty materials. Several group projects
are included and students will be given some class time to plan and implement projects. The syllabus will
be posted and should be checked regularly for any changes.

Documented Disability Statement
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of

Religious Holy Days
According to UT Austin policy, please notify me of any pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the
date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or
a project in order to observe a religious holy day and I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed
work within a reasonable time before or after the absence.

Lecturer: Karen L. Pavelka
Email: pavelka@ischool.utexas.edu
Lab phone: 512-471-8269
Office phone: 512-471-8286
Office: 5.422
Paper lab: 1.506B (More likely to be here than my office.)
Lab hours: 2:00 – 4:00 Wednesday. More will be added.
Contact: Use email, phone, or stop in.
Teaching assistant: Ayse Gursoy

Objectives
Explore the causes and results of disasters as they relate to collection materials, especially audio and
electronic.
Contribute to the literature about salvage techniques.
Explore the possibilities of social media and networking in disaster preparedness and recovery.

Learning outcomes
Be able to evaluate comparative risks for minor and catastrophic events.
Be able to minimize the likelihood of disasters and create disaster preparedness plans tailored to a specific
organization.
Understand how to research appropriate strategies for recovery and apply those strategies.
Disseminate information about disaster recovery to collection personnel.
Assignments

Class participation (20% of grade)
Due: On-going
A large part of your grade is dependent on active class participation. You are expected to have completed all reading before each class meeting, be prepared to discuss the readings, and to share ideas. There may be class exercises or impromptu assignments; these will be graded as class participation.

Article presentation: History of disasters in cultural heritage institutions (5% of grade)
Due: August 28
The topic of discussion for the first class meeting will be the history of disasters in cultural institutions. Students will find an article related to this topic and describe what it covered to the rest of the class. You will need to bring one copy of the article to class to give to the instructor, but you do not need to distribute it to the rest of the class.

Presentations will be graded on quality of the article and the effectiveness of the presentation. This is an opening exercise, designed to get you talking to each other, and it will be graded extremely liberally.

Interview a collection manager who has dealt with a disaster (20% of grade)
Due: October 16
Every disaster is unique and people have various strategies and styles of responding; some more effective than others. Students will interview someone from a small institution, not a conservator, who has had to deal with a fire, flood, contamination or some other unexpected and time sensitive event that threatened the collections. Write a short paper describing what efforts succeeded, what failed, and what impact the event had on planning for future disasters.

Develop specific objectives for experiments (10% of grade)
Due: September 11
We will be damaging and salvaging non-collection materials. This is an opportunity to systematically investigate situations and procedures. Each student will prepare three questions about what information we want to obtain from our experiments. The questions will be prepared individually, but the ideas will be discussed in a group to avoid duplication.

Amass materials (10% of grade)
Due: To be decided
Each student is expected to contribute materials to be damaged. We will discuss free and low-cost strategies for obtaining materials.

Designing and evaluating experiments (15% of grade)
Due: To be decided
Students will work in one or more groups to design experiments and salvage materials. We will discuss available venues and facilities in class.

Disseminating information (20% of grade)
Due: December 5
Students will investigate how to communicate during a disaster and how to disseminate what was learned.

Grading policy:
Since class participation is so important in this class, attendance is also important; you can't participate if you are not there. If you are actually ill I don't want you to come and spread contagion, but please notify me
if you must miss class and I will suggest a make-up activity. Grading will make full use of the plus/minus system.

Schedule

August 28

**Introduction: History of disasters**

Assignment Due: Present article

Readings


September 4  Week 1

**Current understanding of salvage of electronic media**

Readings


Read the post and follow the links she cites.

September 11  Week 2

**Risk analysis**

Assignment Due: Objectives for experiments

Readings


Assessing risks: Emergency preparedness for museum collections. (2011, June 7). Retrieved August 6, 2014, from [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i__sw8hGB0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i__sw8hGB0)

September 18  Week 3

**Health and safety**

Readings


September 25  Week 4
Responding to water disasters
Readings

October 2  Week 5
Mold remediation
Integrated pest management
Readings
Watch free webcast. Link found under Registration.

October 9  Week 6
Ethics and responsibilities
Readings

October 16  Week 7
Disaster preparedness: What is needed
Assignment Due: Interview a collection manager
Readings
The article is available through UT libraries. The entire issue is devoted to disaster planning and response and several of the other articles may be useful to you.
   This is available online through UT libraries.

October 23  Week 8
Fire disasters
Class will meet at 4800 Shaw Lane
Lt. Randy Elmore, Guest Speaker  512-974-0240
Readings
The readings for September 25, Responding to water disasters will apply here.

October 30
Dissemination information to and from disaster site
Readings
http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/MIS.2011.52

November 6
Psychological effects in the aftermath of disasters

November 13
Open labs

November 20
Open labs

November 27
Thanksgiving Holiday
Eat, drink and be merry!

December 4
Evaluation and wrap-up