INF 385T: Disaster Planning and Response

Fall 2022

Unique Number: 28530

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Canvas: https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/xxx

Course Meeting Times
Mondays, 12 – 3 PM

Course Description
Disaster events, like floods and fires, can cause severe damage and loss in cultural heritage collections. How will you respond when disaster strikes? This course introduces students to the fundamental preservation concepts, planning strategies, and applied response techniques that make a difference. The class will evaluate the physical impact of fire, water, soot, mold, and insects on varied media, including books, flat paper, audiovisual materials, and other items. Disaster planning exercises model proactive methods to minimize damage. Hands-on response drills enable students to practice salvage techniques, and to triage and prioritize impacted materials.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the causes and results of disasters
- Practice hands-on salvage techniques
- Understand the physical impacts of disaster scenarios on varied library and archival materials
- Prioritize materials for response
- Engage in disaster preparedness planning to minimize impact on collections
- Develop historical perspectives about past disasters and their consequences
- Consider the impact of climate change on disaster preparedness and planning

**Course Requirements**

There are no prerequisites for this class. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete all reading assignments before each class meeting. There may be one or more off-site class meetings.

**Required Texts**


Available from the University Co-op and from the American Institute for Conservation. [https://store.culturalheritage.org/site/index.php?app=ecom&ns=prodshow&ref=FAIC-2](https://store.culturalheritage.org/site/index.php?app=ecom&ns=prodshow&ref=FAIC-2)

This succinct and portable handbook is a go-to reference for collections caretakers. We will use it extensively in Week 2 of our class, and you will likely find it to be a useful addition to your professional library. It is your souvenir from the class!

All other course readings are available in the Files section of our Canvas page or online.

**Assignments**

Please submit all assignments via Canvas unless otherwise instructed. All assignments are due by the beginning of class on the due date. If you have a legitimate reason for an assignment to be late, please discuss it with me as early as possible.

*Assignment: Article Presentation on a Past Cultural Heritage Disaster* (10 pts)

Assigned Week 1; due as scheduled throughout semester.

Each student will lead a class discussion on an article of their choice on an assigned date. Articles should describe a past disaster event affecting a cultural heritage institution or collection, as well as the salvage and response for that event. Peer-reviewed articles are encouraged, but substantive popular journalism may also be acceptable given the topic. As possible, choose a topic that complements our class discussion for that day. Discussion sessions typically last about 30 minutes.
Please make your article available for your classmates to review at least two days before your presentation. Include in your presentation two or three questions to spur discussion.

*Participation* (15 pts)
Assigned Week 1; completed at close of semester.
Students are responsible for participating in class discussions by offering readings-based commentary and questions that direct our conversations. Students should engage in hands-on exercises and make efforts to learn from the experiences of fellow classmates who may work with different physical materials. Attendance and tardiness are also reflected in your participation grade.

*Assignment: Risk Mapping for Texas Archives* (25 pts)
Assigned Week 1; Due Week 4 (7-10 page report)

In this assignment, we will use GIS (geographic information system) mapping to evaluate potential climate change risks posed to Texas archives. Using the maps we’ve created, we’ll write a report that identifies at-risk institutions, describes potential collections impacts, and formulates proactive recommendations. For a full assignment description, please see “Risk Mapping for Texas Archives” in Canvas – Files – Assignment Guidelines.

*Assignment: Risk Assessment Report* (25 pts) (15-20 pgs)
Assigned Week 4; Due Week 7
Working in assigned groups, write a risk assessment report based on the ABC Method described in *A Guide to Risk Management of Cultural Heritage* by Stefan Michalski and Jose Luiz Pedersoli (see Week 4 readings.) Our target collection will be discussed in class. For a full assignment description, please see “Risk Assessment Report” at Canvas – Files – Assignment Guidelines.

*Assignment: Disaster Salvage Report* (25 pts) (10-12 pgs)
Assigned Week 12; Due Week 14
Write a report that summarizes your experiences with our in-class disaster response exercise. Include a narrative of the class’ response; triage activities; and time management. Discuss your specific salvage duties. Evaluate the outcome of the response for the affected materials, focusing on the long-term preservation and accessibility of each of the varied materials (books, paper, audio, etc.) What went well? What would you change? Which materials were saved and which were lost? Cite course readings to support your analysis.

**Evaluation and Writing Guidelines**
I will use the following schedule as the basis for calculating grades: A=95-100, A-=90-<95, B+=85-<90, B=80-<85, B-=75-<80, C+=70-<75, C=65-<70, C-=60-<65, F=<60. Grades will be reduced by 2 points for every day they are late unless prior arrangements have been made.

In all assignments, please cite class readings and related sources. This makes your work more authoritative and it lets me see that you’ve read and thought about class materials.

In your assignments, please strive for accurate, concise, and well-organized writing that showcases your understanding of the topics at hand. My primary goal is to assess your mastery of these topics, rather than your writing. However, if your writing hinders the successful communication of your understanding, I will then grade writing by necessity. For writing assistance, please see the University Writing Center.

A few writing tips specific to this class:
- Title submitted files as follows: “(Last Name)_(Assignment Title.)”
- Use double spacing.
- Use APA Guidelines for in-text citations, a reference list, and other guidelines as needed.
- Strive for clear topic sentences and closing statements.
- Ensure that your sentences and paragraphs build sequentially upon one another.
- Use fewer words whenever possible.
- Avoid using scare quotes whenever possible.
- Use single quotes in only one instance: a quote inside a quote.
- Use ellipses only to indicate words or ideas omitted for brevity.
- Be precise with pronouns, especially the word “they.” APA Guidelines tell us:
  - “He/him/his” and “she/her/hers” are singular and gendered.
  - “They/their” is plural.
  - “They/their” may also be singular in several special cases:
    - When a singular person identifies with more than one gender. Ex: Casey is a gender-fluid person. They are from Texas and enjoy tacos.
    - When gender is unknown. Ex: The cup of coffee is theirs. (His? Hers? We don’t know.)
    - When it’s bulky and awkward to say “he or she,” “him or her,” or “his or hers.” Ex: Each child played with their (instead of “his or her”) parent. Please note, this usage is the least formal, and there’s often a way to write around it.

UT Notices and Announcements
University of Texas Honor Code
Every student is expected to abide by The University of Texas Honor Code, which should be read and understood before taking any class. It can be found here:  
http://www.engr.utexas.edu/undergraduate/forms/462-university-of-texas-honor-code

**Policy on Academic Integrity**  
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may fail the course, and/or be dismissed from the School of Information and/or the University if you are found plagiarizing. UT has a tutorial describing plagiarism here:  
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/

**Documented Disability Statement**  
A student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-232-2937 (video phone) or http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/  
Please let me know about anything that will help you succeed whether or not it is related to any disability.

**Official Class Correspondence**  
E-mail is recognized as an official mode of University correspondence. Please maintain ongoing, current familiarity with class communications via email, and contact me for any needed clarification.

Our class also uses Canvas to host readings, post announcements, submit assignments, and return grades.  You are welcome to message me directly through this platform.

**Land Acknowledgement**  
We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Indigenous land. Moreover, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Lipan Apache, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, Tigua Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

**Personal Pronoun Preference**  
Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name, unless they have added a “preferred name” with the Gender and Sexuality Center, which you can do so here:  
http://diversity.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/publications-and-resources/. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender pronouns you use (she/he/they/ze, etc). Please advise me of any changes early in the semester so that I may make appropriate updates to my
records. For instructions on how to add your pronouns to Canvas, visit https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/profile-pronouns.

Religious Holy Days
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence as far in advance as possible 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, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX Reporting
Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university’s relevant policies.

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered “Responsible Employees” or “Mandatory Reporters,” which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX-related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX-related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu For more information about reporting options and resources, visit the Title IX Office or email titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

Class Recordings
Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Online Class Components
All students must use a UT Zoom account in order to participate in any remote classes, office hours, and UT events.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited
No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University’s Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. The University is well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found on such sites that are associated with a specific student, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure of the course.

**Classroom Safety and COVID**
- Pending UT policy, Fall 2022.

**Course Schedule:** [https://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/22-23](https://registrar.utexas.edu/calendars/22-23)

**Week 1: 8/22** (Please note: each week’s readings must be completed before class for discussion during class.)

**Introduction; Flooding and Climate Change**
- Course overview
- Assign article presentation weeks
- Introduce Repository Data Project
- Assign Risk Mapping for Texas Archives (due Week 4)

**Readings**


Repository data project [https://github.com/RepoData/RepoData](https://github.com/RepoData/RepoData)
Week 2: 8/29
Disaster Response at the Macro Level: Administration & Strategy
- Two article presentations on a past cultural heritage disaster – two students
- Disaster response role-playing exercise, using the Field Guide as our guide

Readings

Holiday 9/5: Labor Day

Week 3: 9/12
Disaster Issues at the Micro Level: Materials Impacts
- Two article presentations on a past cultural heritage disaster – 2 students
- Fire, soot, water, and mold; their impacts on varied collections materials
- Slideshow discussion: A Gallery of Horrors!
- Class activity: water’s impact on varied papers and media

Readings
This is a resource for conservators, though I have omitted the parts specifically about conservation treatment. You do not have to memorize or understand every concept. Rather, work toward a general understanding that moisture impacts paper in very fundamental ways.


Week 4: 9/19

Collections Risk Assessment

Assignment Due: Risk Mapping for Texas Archives: Sea Level Rise and the Gulf Coast Region

- Site visit: UT School of Human Ecology, Textiles and Apparel Collection, Gearing Hall
- Work collaboratively on opening portions of Risk Assessment Report
- Assign Risk Assessment Report and groups

Readings


Week 5: 9/26

Health & Safety; Working with Emergency Responders

- Two article presentations on a past cultural heritage disaster – two students
- Program planning, mold sensitivity, and PPE
- Interacting with local emergency officials
- Guest speaker: Eric Carter, Chief Emergency Management Coordinator, Travis County Emergency Services

Readings


“How to Properly Put on and Take Off a Disposable Respirator.” US Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (nd). DHHS NIOSH Publication No. 2010-133. See Canvas.


Carmicheal, David. *Implementing the Incident Command System at the Institutional Level*. Heritage Preservation, 2010. Chapter 1: What is the Incident Command System (pp 7 – 12); Chapter 4: The Role of the Command Structure (pp 23 - 34.)

**Week 6: 10/3**

**Water Response: Flat Paper and Photos**
- Article presentation on a past cultural heritage disaster - student
- Discuss document salvage case study (Kibe) and drying case study (Kaplan & Ludwig)
- Demo and practice: handling and drying wet paper and photos

**Readings**


University of Delaware Art Conservation. “How to Restore Flood-Damaged Photos.” Accessed July 2020 at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrtF2e3I2sI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrtF2e3I2sI)


Week 7: 10/10
Assignment Due: Risk Assessment Report
Water Response: Books, AV Materials, and Artifacts
-Student discussion of similarities and differences in risk assessment reports. How reproducible is the ABC Method?
-Demo and practice: handling and drying wet books, artifacts, electronic media
-Possible freezing demonstration

Readings


Week 8: 10/17
-Mold Remediation
-Mold ID slideshow
-Introduce collections materials from Huston-Tillotson University
-Demo HEPA vacuuming, mechanical removal, working in a fume hood
-Hands-on practice with PPE

Readings


Of special relevance here are the images and descriptions of tenting and quarantine. Other
practices – such as oxygen deprivation, dry ice dusting, and bioluminescence – go beyond the scope of this class, but may be of interest all the same!

**Week 9: 10/24**

**Fire demo**
- Class will meet at Austin Fire Academy, 4800 Shaw Lane

**Readings**


**Week 10: 10/31**

**Fire Response**
- Article presentation on a past cultural heritage disaster – student
- Fire planning and response (discuss readings)
- Demo: Cleaning soot and ash
- View burned materials
- Hands-on practice

**Readings**


Week 11: 11/7
Earthquakes
- Article presentation on a past cultural heritage disaster - student
- Structural and institutional concerns
- Shelving and restraints
- Guest speaker on vibration and earthquakes: Dr. Lee Norris, Engineering Consultant / Dad
- Demo: shake table and mitigation strategies

Readings


Week 12: 11/14
Disaster Salvage
- Assign Disaster Salvage Report, due Week 14
- Collaborative disaster response drill

This week, the class will respond to a disaster event staged in the Conservation Lab. I will be in class to advise as needed, but students should plan and enact their group’s salvage activities. Details of the disaster and affected materials will not be provided in advance - knowing the date is already more information than you’ll get in real life! Be sure to cooperate, triage materials,
and prioritize response to do the most good for the most items. Also remember to maintain intellectual control over your collections.

**Fall Break, 11/21 – 11/25**

**Week 13: 11/28**

**Disaster Plans**
- Review outcomes of disaster salvage
- Article presentation on a past cultural heritage disaster - student
- Discuss disaster plan templates
- Evaluate examples of disaster plans

**Readings**

New York State Archives. Sample Disaster Plan. (n.d.) See Canvas


Click “DEMO” and follow the instructions to sample this online tool.

**Week 14: 12/5**

**Assignment Due: Disaster Salvage Report**

**Modern and Manmade Disasters**
- Two article presentations on a past cultural heritage disaster – two students
- Warfare
- Terrorism
- Biological attack
- Pandemic

**Readings**


