

Honors Dialogues Seminar

Hurricane Harvey

HONR 3375

2018 Spring Semester

LDB 215; Tuesdays 3-5:50pm

Professor Information:

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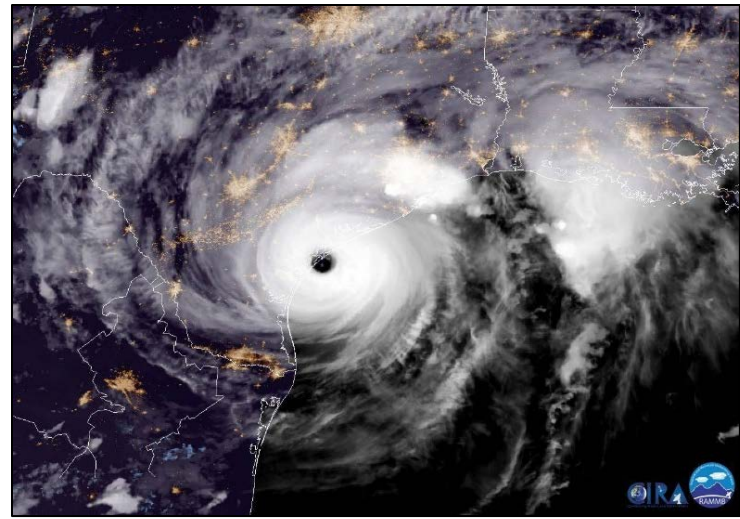
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Description:

This past fall, we had the opportunity to experience the effects of a large-scale natural disaster when Hurricane Harvey crashed into the Texas coast. How did this storm event affect you, your family and your friends? In this course, we will start the semester by sharing those experiences and their impacts on our lives and then as the semester progresses, we will take a deep dive into a wide range of hurricane issues – including water, politics, climate change, economics, social issues, regional storm history, storm management/preparation, culture and art. Recent data shows that the large-scale storm events are stronger than ever and are occurring more frequently – the overarching goal of this course is to explore why this is happening and to equip students with a multi-disciplinary understanding of the wide-ranging effects of these storm events.

Outcomes:

- To gain an understanding the importance of water across multiple disciplines and systems.
- To think critically about the sustainability of current water usage both in Texas and across the globe.
- To understand the term “climate change” and be able to accurately communicate on the topic.
- To explore how emergency managers prepare and respond to hurricanes.
- To see how the effects of hurricanes varies across both spatial and social scales.
- To gain an appreciation of the history of hurricanes and how they have shaped our region.
- To become familiar with the economic implications of climate change and large scale storm events.
- To experience how art and cultural expression can be shaped by natural disasters.

Course Texts: There are no required books for this course. Readings will be distributed via Blackboard or email on a weekly basis.

Course policy & expectations:

Attendance to class is required due to the volume of material covered each class and the importance of your feedback and discussion in the classroom. We expect each of you to be *present* and *prepared* for each class. This will involve having critically read the assigned text and completing the written assignments before each class! The success of this class hinges on each of you being prepared and ready to engage in a discussion in each class session. All written assignments will be due via upload to Blackboard; no hard copies of emailed assignments will be accepted (think sustainability here) and no late assignments will be accepted.

Grading:

1. Participation and Preparation	25%
2. Written Assignments	25%
3. Interactive Projects/Presentations	25%
4. ACE Group Project	25%
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	100%

Grading scale: A \geq 90%; B \geq 80%; C \geq 70%; D \geq 60%; F < 60%

Participation and Preparation: This is an Honors course, so each of you is expected to be prepared for each class session. In addition, your active participation in class discussions is vital to the class. Please come to class ready to talk about each topic.

Written Assignments: Throughout the semester, assignments will be discussed in class with due dates and associated details conveyed accordingly. Depending on the scope of the assignments, they may be turned in electronically via the course website on Blackboard (Bb) or as a hard copy in class.

Interactive Projects/Presentations: These assignments will be geared to broaden your knowledge various hurricane related issues. The exact number and scope of these assignments will be determined as the semester progresses. Some interactive assignments maybe be focused on off campus trips or other in class exercises/presentations.

ACE Group Projects: This course will include Academic Community Engagement (ACE) projects where student groups will apply course concepts in the local and SHSU communities. We will discuss these projects the first day of class in greater detail. Each project will culminate in an in-class presentation at the end of the semester, a written reflection of your experience. Please be advised that these group projects will include group work that will occur outside of normal classroom meeting times – students will be expected to contribute a minimum of 9hrs of work outside of normal class time on the project. Students will need to both be on campus outside of the classroom meeting time to meet with their groups as well as to go out into the community to conduct their project's research. This course and these projects will fall under the Academic Community Engagement (ACE) program here at SHSU (<http://www.shsu.edu/~ace/>).

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Visitors are welcome, but please inform the instructor if you have a visitor with you. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program of activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 264-1720. Students who have disabilities that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure the students educational opportunity. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

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Spring 2018 - Tentative Course Outline

Date	Topic	Assignments
23-Jan	Introductions. Course Objectives & Expectations. First-hand Hurricane Accounts	
30-Jan	Water 101a: Physical, Chemical and Ecological Characteristics	Water Budget Calculations
6-Feb	Water 101b: Water in Texas & Climate Change	ACE Assignment #1
13-Feb	Disaster Management: How Does SHSU Respond?	
20-Feb	Hurricanes: A Historical Perspective. The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 and the Emergence of Houston	ACE Assignment #2
27-Feb	Philosophical Approach to Big Climate Art and how it Relates to Climate Change	
6-Mar	Visualizing the Effects of Harvey	
13-Mar	Spring Break	
20-Mar	Visualizing the Disproportional Effects of Hurricanes: Past and Present	ACE Assignment #3
27-Mar	Economics of Climate Change	
3-Apr	Houston and Puerto Rico: Different Experiences	
10-Apr	Climate Art: Part 2	
17-Apr	Flex Date	
24-Apr	SHSU Natural Disaster Simulation	
1-May	ACE Presentations, Course Summary, Wrap-up	
8-May	Finals Week	