



FESA 3352-600 Homeland Security/Emergency Management Spring 2025
CRN: 23596
Department of Management and Marketing, College of Business
Course Syllabus

Class Meeting Time and Place: Online Asynchronous
Class Duration: 01/21 – 05/13/2025
Instructor: Michael Parsons, MS
Office: Virtual
Tel: (210) 413-4295 Cell
E-Mail: michael.parsons@tamusa.edu.
Student emails will receive a reply within two business days.

Course Website: <https://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Office Hours: Online Through Email and or Phone as requested

Catalog Course Description:

This course will examine the evolution of emergency management, homeland security and emergency response in the wake of the events of 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina. It will survey multiple disciplines involved in the disaster processes and future directions in these fields. Students will also examine the success and failures of emergency management by examining such incidents as World Trade Center Attacks, Pentagon Attacks, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, Los Angeles Riots, and other emergency events that have shaped the relationship between the fire service, emergency management and the Federal Government.

Prerequisites:

None- This class is intended for BAAS-FESA students. Others may attend with the approval of their respective school or department.

Course Format:

Online – Asynchronous: The course will be delivered through the University's Blackboard Academic Suite. Only students who are enrolled at TAMU-SA and registered for this course will be given access

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain and analyze the preparedness model.
- Identify and analyze resources for preparedness. Compare and contrast the similarities and differences between disaster planning and terrorism planning.

- Identify and evaluate sources of information used in Homeland Security.
- Discuss how the National Incident Management System and the Incident Control System are used to integrate the necessary components of planning for Homeland Security and emergency preparedness.
- Explain information sharing regulations used in law enforcement and national security and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Identify, assess, and rank critical infrastructure and other significant targets in order of vital significance and vulnerability to support allocation and effective use of protective sources

AACSB Assessment:

The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

Required Materials:

- **Textbook:** Emergency Management: The American Experience, 3rd ed. Claire Rubin CRC Press ISBN 9781138354067
- **Blackboard:** Connect to <http://tamusa.blackboard.com>. You will have lecture notes, solutions to problems, multimedia materials and other supplementary materials in Blackboard. All class communications will be through Blackboard and students should monitor this several times during the week.
- **Time Expectation for coursework:** You are expected to spend 4-8 hours per week on the course. Based on the background, some students may require more time. Time spent may be longer when assignment/exams are due.
- **Other Recommended / Reading Materials:** Additional reading materials are available on the course website as recommended by the instructor.

Course Requirements every student must fulfill to succeed in course:

1. Students should check the Course Calendar, Announcements, and Messages (e-mail) systems in Blackboard on a regular basis.

2. Students should keep current with all course assignments, quizzes, and examinations.
3. If the course uses remote proctoring for exams, students must schedule their exam early in the semester.
4. Students should ask questions and communicate with the instructor either in class, online, off-line or during office hours.
5. For all classwork, exams, quizzes etc., if a student is completing it off-campus, then they are responsible for availability of internet connectivity. Extensions will **not** be granted for lack of availability of internet connections.
6. Students should remember that online and hybrid courses assume greater responsibility and independent learning skills by the student for their own learning outcomes.
7. For online courses, students should keep current on class recordings, if not attending the live class (either in person or online).
8. For online asynchronous courses, there will be no online class sessions. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.
9. For online synchronous courses, there will be online class sessions as indicated. Students are expected to attend the online session at the given time. If a student is unable to attend a session, the instructor will make the recording of the session available for the student to view. All materials will be made available through Blackboard or through online links.

Grading Policy: The final course grade will be based on your performance on the quizzes, exams, assignments and class participation using the following weights:

Assignments/Discussion	15%
Midterm Research	25%
Final Research	25%
Participation	10%
Case Study	25%

The final letter grades will be assigned as follows: Above 90% ⇒ A; 80 – 89% ⇒ B; 70 – 79% ⇒ C; 60 – 69% ⇒ D; Below 60% ⇒ F.

This course has a requirement of a grade of C as a minimal grade for satisfactory completion of this course.



EXAMINATIONS:

There will be online quizzes through Blackboard. The exams/quizzes will consist of conceptual multiple-choice questions, and short essay questions. The exam/quiz materials will come from lecture notes, the text, and discussions. Questions will emphasize understanding and applications of concepts and topics covered in class.

ASSIGNMENT:

There will be individual or group assignments during the semester. The objective of the assignments is to analyze and respond to various case studies outlined in the text, or as assigned by the instructor. Details of the assignment will be provided later.

RESEARCH PAPERS:

This course will require the completion of two (2) research-based papers. The papers will focus on the relationships between Homeland Security events, Emergency Management and the materials presented in the class. Topic selection and research criteria will be presented later in the course.

CASE STUDY PAPERS:

During the class there will be several case study analysis' papers assigned. The case study is designed to complement the research assignments. Students will be given ample opportunity to develop case study assignments into the research papers. RUBRICS and scoring guides will be discussed in class.

Make up and Late Assignment/exam/quiz policy:

As a rule, make-up or late submissions will be accepted but will receive an automatic 15%-point deduction. Late submissions or make-up may be accepted/administered only in extra-ordinary circumstances such as an excused official university activity, a severe illness, or a dire emergency. However, you must provide comprehensive documentation either before or within a few days of the missed assignment/quiz/exam to receive exemption from the late penalty.

Class conduct and civility code: Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules in the student handbook, as well as common courtesy during classroom lectures and discussions in class and online, including the following:

1. It is the students' responsibility to obtain and be able to use the required materials and software for this class.
2. Student must retain copies of all assignments and graded work for verification purposes. Keep copies of all computer files and e-mails.
3. For any questions about the exams and assignments, a student should contact the instructor before the day they are due, so the instructor may have enough time to provide feedback.
4. All communications will be via e-mail communications to the Texas A&M University e-mail account, and students are expected to use their school provided email account. The instructor will reply to a student e-mail messages and voice messages within 48 hours during weekdays

Class attendance and Participation:

The class is delivered entirely online. Students are responsible for the materials covered in class. Class participation is highly encouraged as it makes class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions and problem solving.

Active participation will be rewarded when final grades are assigned. The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in class. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation outside of class extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding lectures.

Spring 2025 Class Schedule

The provisions and information set forth in the schedule below are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. The instructor reserves the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule.

	Date		Chapters
Short	Jan 21	Jan 25	Syllabus/Introduction/Chapter 1
Week 1	Jan 26	Feb 01	Chapter 2
Week 2	Feb 02	Feb 08	Chapter 3
Week 3	Feb 09	Feb 15	Chapter 4
Week 4	Feb 16	Feb 22	Chapter 5
Week 5	Feb 23	Mar 01	Chapter 6 Case Study
Week 6	Mar 02	Mar 08	Midterm Assignment
Week 7	Mar 09	Mar 15	Spring Break
Week 8	Mar 16	Mar 22	Chapter 7
Week 9	Mar 23	Mar 29	Chapter 8
Week 10	Mar 30	Apr 05	Chapter 9
Week 11	Apr 06	Apr 12	Case Study
Week 12	Apr 13	Apr 19	Chapter 10
Week 13	Apr 20	Apr 26	Case Study
Week 14	Apr 27	May 03	Prep for Final Research
Week 15	May 04	May 13	Final Research Paper

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The

Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance). All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled

tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Important Dates:

January 21	First day of class
March 10-15	Spring Break – No classes
April 18	Study Day – No classes
April 21	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 28	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
May 05	Last day of classes
May 06	Study Day – No classes
May 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

FESA Appendix A

OTHER CLASS POLICIES:

- Everyone in class is expected to follow all rules of common courtesy interacting in the class and online. Anyone violating these policies may be subject to disciplinary actions.
- The course is intensive and challenging and you are expected to master the materials presented in the lessons. The structure of the class makes your individual study and preparation extremely important. Reading the assigned chapter(s) and having some familiarity with them before class will be very useful for understanding ideas and presentations.
- The instructor will post lecture materials appropriate to the class on the Blackboard site.
- The course covers a lot of material, and most students find at least some parts of it difficult. Your participation is highly encouraged in the discussion board portion, as it makes class more interesting and enhances the learning experience. I encourage you to ask questions, participate in online discussion and problem solving.
- There will be several opportunities for instructor and student interaction through chat sessions and virtual classroom sessions. Although these sessions are not mandatory, they help in the learning process. Students will be provided adequate notification of session dates.
- The provisions and information set forth in this schedule are intended to be informational and not contractual in nature. I reserve the right to amend, alter, change, delete or modify the provisions of the schedule. All the changes will be announced through Blackboard Announcements, and you are responsible for the announcements made in this manner.

General Guidelines for Online Discussions

1. Do not only respond to my questions, but rather carry on a dialogue with your classmates as well. This is a discussion, not just a question-and-answer session. It is one of the items that make a good online course and establishes community. If you only respond to my question, it makes our discussion more of an "exam" rather than a dialogue.
2. Do not get caught up in "winning" the debate. We are here to learn the material, to discuss matters of importance with others, and to enjoy learning.
3. Read at least 3-4 postings from your classmates, not just those from me. We all learn from each other's perspectives and experiences.
4. If you have questions over the reading material, direct your inquiries to me as soon as possible.
5. When you reply to a post, don't just say "I agree." Give the person or person's name you agree with, a brief sentence or two, summaries of what they said you are agreeing with, and then your views. You might also consider changing the subject line to reflect your posts. Make it easy for us to figure out who you are talking to and what you are talking about.
6. Depending on the course you are enrolled in, you should plan on having your posts completed by the date indicated in the Module—NO LATER. Three posts are the bare minimum—one originating with you and two responses to classmates. Therefore, more is expected for a discussion grade of "C". Late posts do not count and thus a poor grade is recorded. You should also plan on posting on more than one or even two days to allow yourself to stay involved with the class.
7. Try to keep each post to no more than one or two screens. I will do the same.
8. If you express an opinion, support it with material from our readings. When you quote, summarize, or paraphrase from the text be sure to give the page number(s) --This is important!
9. When in doubt, ask. If your classmates cannot answer your question, then I probably can.