

## **Introduction to Natural Hazards and Disasters** **(5 credits Natural Science)**

GEOG/GEOL 106

Welcome to Geography/Geology 106. This is a five-credit, natural science course that fulfills a Science distribution requirement for the Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS) Degree at Bellevue College. There are no prerequisites for this class.

The course satisfies **General Education Requirements** in the following areas:

**The Nature of Science: Rating 3**

**Science and the Natural World: Rating 3**

The course transfers as natural science credit. The class can be taken as Geography **OR** Geology credit to satisfy the College's distribution requirement in Sciences.

### **Course Description/Objectives:**

This is a survey course designed to introduce students to earth and atmospheric potential hazards as reflected or evidenced by actual catastrophes or disasters. The course will strive to elevate student awareness regarding dangerous interactions between earth processes and humans, as well as the interrelationships among potential disasters. In doing so, students may be able to make more informed/educated decisions such as determining the best site location for a future home purchase. Throughout the course Case Studies are used to aid in understanding the complexities of environmental policies, societal behaviors, and governmental responsibilities. Other than the textbook visuals, a variety of images will be used to enhance the delivery of course information.

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### **Required Text:**

**Natural Hazards and Disasters: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, Hyndman and Hyndman, 2009. Brooks/  
Cole CENGAGE Learning

**Format:**

The coursework is divided into **seven (7) Course Modules**.

**Course Modules:**

The modules are designed to follow the general format of chapter content in your textbook. The textbook, however, is best viewed as a support tool for your studies as there are additional resources – **Class Notes and Recommended Reading Assignments** – that will need to be carefully studied to provide a foundation for this class.

All modules begin with **Class Notes**. These notes will aid you to better understand the topics covered in the particular module. Often, I will provide my own personal images and experiences. **You should begin each module by reading the introductory Class Notes.**

The next step is to read through the **Textbook Reading Assignment Section**. The instructions identify which chapters of the textbook you need to read to enable you to answer questions on both the Practice Exams and Module Exams and Final.

Each Module has a **Recommended Reading Assignment Section**. This is your next step. Read through these articles. Questions will be taken from this section to be included in the Practice and Module Exams and Final.

The last step in each module is the actual module exam. Having carefully read through and completed the **Class Notes, Textbook and Recommended Reading Assignments** – and completed the **Practice Exams**– you will then be prepared to take the respective module exam. To successfully complete the exams, it is imperative that you complete all of the Practice Exams. **All** of the module exam questions are **directly** based on the Class Notes, Text and Recommended readings. All exams are open book/note. Be aware that the module exams are time limited that is you will have a limited time to answer the module questions. You can only make **ONE** attempt and are allocated 90 minutes to complete the exam.

The Seven Modules are sequenced in the following order.

- Module 1:** Introduction to Natural Hazards and Disasters  
Fundamentals of Plate Tectonics and Associated Physical Hazards
- Module 2:** Earthquake Processes
- Module 3:** Earthquake Prediction and Mitigation
- Module 4:** Volcanoes and Risks
- Module 5:** Mass-wasting/Slope Failure Processes
- Module 6:** Streams and Flooding
- Module 7:** Catastrophic Weather - Storm Systems

All of the modules have an open book/open note, **multiple-choice** online Exam. Material that you study for the online Final will come from the two chapters contained in Module Seven – Catastrophic Weather. The Final is not comprehensive

**Course Grading:** ☐ Your quarter grade is based on your accumulated points for the seven

Module Quizzes. Therefore, 300 points is the highest achievable score. However, if you complete ALL of the Chapter Practice Quizzes by the assessments closing date, then five (5) extra credit points will be added to your total accumulated points before determining your quarter grade. I have included the following table so that you can evaluate your grade at the end of the quarter.

**Grading Scale:**

<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>279-300</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>270-278</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>258-269</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>246-257</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>240-245</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>228-239</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>218-227</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>210-217</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>195-209</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>165-194</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>&lt; 165</b>

**If you cannot continue with the class, then you must officially withdraw by the last date given in the relevant quarter. The critical dates are listed in the Quarter Schedule Calendar.** A “W” will be posted on transcript. Failure to withdraw by the deadlines will result in an “F” posted on transcript.

**Participation:**

The student is responsible for:

1. the technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc.  
Please refer to the BCC Distance Education website for the Vista Tutorial and for minimum hardware requirements.  
The Distance Education Office telephone number is listed above.
2. reading the specified materials.
3. taking part in email discussions. Contacting me/fellow students can be helpful.
4. keeping comprehensive notes/diagrams/maps relevant to course topics.
5. Timely completions of the module exams.  
You should not leave exams to the last minute in case you have a technical problem this is a very important consideration.
6. reviewing the Bellevue Community College academic calendar  
posted at <http://distance-ed.bcc.ctc.edu> for all details regarding registration and withdrawal policy and procedures and distribution of final grades.
7. reading the Social Science Division’s policy statement.
8. if special needs are necessary contacting Disability Support Services  
at (425) 564-2498

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

