

GEOGRAPHY/GEOOGY 106
Syllabus: Winter Quarter 2009

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

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 text Case Studies are used to facilitate in understanding the complexities of environmental policies, societal behaviors, and governmental responsibilities. Other than the textbook visuals, a variety of images from numerous sources will be used to enhance the delivery of course information.

My name is: **George C. Walker**

Mailing address:
Geography Department
Social Science Division/Room D110
Bellevue College
3000 Landerholm Circle SE
Bellevue, WA 98007

Phone: (425) 564-2333
Division Office phone: (425) 564-2331
Distance Education Office: (425) 564-2438
Email: gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu
Office: **D100D**

Required Text:

Natural Hazards and Disasters: **2nd 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, Articles and Images, and Practice Quizzes* - 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 in the Practice Quizzes, Module Exams and Final.

Each Module has an *Articles and Images Section*. This is your next step. Carefully read through these articles and view the images. Questions will be taken from this section to be included in the Practice Quizzes, and Module Exams.

Having carefully read through and completed the *Class Notes, Textbook Readings, and Articles and Images Section*, you will then be prepared to attempt the respective *Practice Quiz*. Having successfully completed the quiz you are now ready to take the final step by taking the appropriate Module Exam. **Most** of the module exam questions are **directly** based on the *Textbook Readings*. In addition, some questions will be taken from the Class Notes and from the Articles and Images. **All** exams are open book/note. **All** the online exams are multiple choice/true false formats. 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 60 minutes to complete the exam.

The Seven (7) Modules and textbook readings are sequenced in the following order:

Module 1 Chapter 1: Natural Hazards and Disasters
Chapter 2: Plate Tectonics and Physical Hazards

Module 2 Chapter 3: Earthquakes and Their Causes

Module 3 Chapter 4: Earthquake Prediction and Mitigation
Chapter 5: Tsunami

Module 4 Chapter 6: Volcanoes: Tectonic Environments and Eruptions
Chapter 7: Volcanoes Hazards and Mitigation

Module 5 Chapter 8: Landslides and Other Downslope Movements

Module 6 Chapter 11: Streams and Flood Processes
Chapter 12: Floods and Human Interactions

Module 7 Chapter 14: Hurricanes and Nor'easters
Chapter 15: Thunderstorms and Tornadoes

All seven (7) modules have an open book/open note, **multiple-choice**, and **true/false** online exam. The seventh and last module will be material that you study for the online Final. The Final is not comprehensive. Your weakest module exam score from modules 1 through 6 will be removed – but - everyone must take the Final.

Course Grading:

All of the exams (including the Final) are equally weighted at 100 points. Total possible points including the Final is 600 – remember the lowest score of 1 thru 6 is removed. There is no extra credit.

Grading Scale:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| A | 4.0 | 559-600 |
| A- | 3.7 | 541-558 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 510-540 |
| B | 3.0 | 480-509 |
| B- | 2.7 | 450-479 |
| C+ | 2.3 | 420-449 |
| C | 2.0 | 390-419 |
| C- | 1.7 | 360-389 |
| D+ | 1.3 | 330-359 |
| D | 1.0 | 300-329 |
| F | 0.0 | < 300 |

Participation:

The student is responsible for:

1. The technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc.
Please refer to the Bellevue College 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 College academic calendar posted at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance> 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 Resource Center (DRC) at (425) 564-2498

Below are the **'General Guidelines for the Social Science Division'**, of which Geography is a program: please note there have to be slight modifications for online sections. For instance, unacceptable behavior would apply to posting rude or personal attacks in discussion messages or using information from the personal biographies posted to harass fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to remove messages posted, downgrade the assessment of the exercise, and/or refer the student(s) to the appropriate authorities.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Winter 2009

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 Community 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 Community 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 BCC 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 BCC 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 Community 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.*