

The Violent Face of Nature

(5 credits Natural Science)

GEOG108

Welcome to Geography 108. 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 transfers as natural science credit.

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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Email: Use the Canvas email to reach me - my college email address is gwalker@bellevuecollege.edu – but please use Canvas email to reach me

Office: D100D

Required Text:

Natural Hazards and Disasters: 4th edition, Hyndman and Hyndman, 2014. Brooks/ Cole CENGAGE Learning

Text can be rented from the College Bookstore for \$45.00.

Format:

The coursework is divided into seven Course Modules and a series of five Discussion Topics.

1) Course Modules:

Important: please note 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 – Online Class Notes, Articles and Images Section. In addition, the end of Chapter Cases in Point will become an important component beginning with Chapter Three.

All of the online modules begin with Class Notes. These notes will aid you to better understand the topics covered in the particular module. You should begin each module by reading the short introductory Class Notes. Then follow-up with the Articles and Images Section.

The next step is to proceed through the Textbook Reading Assignments. 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.

Questions will be taken from all of the above sections to be included in the Practice Quizzes and the Module Exams.

The last step in each module is the actual Module Exam. Having carefully read through and completed the Class Notes, Articles and Images, and Textbook Readings – and completed the Chapter Practice Quizzes– 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 Chapter Practice Quizzes. All of the module exam questions are directly based on the Class Notes, Articles and Images, Text Readings and Cases in Point. All exams are open book/note. Be aware that the Module Exams are timed and you will have a limited time to answer the module questions. You can only make ONE attempt.

All of the Module Exams have deadline dates that are set with no make-ups available.

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 – Earthquake Predictions, Forecasts and Mitigation

Module 3: Tsunami

Module 4: Volcanoes: Tectonic Environments and Eruptions –Volcanoes: Hazards

and Mitigation

Module 5: Landslides and Other Down-slope Movements

Module 6: Stream and Flood Processes – Floods and Human Interactions

Module 7: Weather, Thunderstorms and Tornadoes – Hurricanes and Nor'easters

All of the modules have an open book/open note, multiple-choice, true and false, and matching format. The seventh module is the last one to submit - and so there is no final exam as such. Total possible points 300.

2) 5 Discussion Topics: worth 20 marks each - in addition to the Module Exams you are asked to submit a series of 5 Discussion Topics. You can see these listed on the Modules page - with the instructions for each and the deadline dates. Please note that there are no make-ups and the deadline dates are set. Total possible points 100.

Course Grading: Total possible points is 400.

A note regarding illness and technical problems - of course, if you are ill then you may need an extension – but to be fair to all concerned I will need a doctor's note to confirm your illness.

It is your responsibility not to leave everything until the last minute as technical problems can sometimes occur. If you are unsure of your computer or have frequent power outages, then prepare to use a Library computer to avoid problems. Again I will need confirmation of all problems you encounter to be fair to all concerned in the class.

Grading Scale:

A

4.0

365 and over

A-

3.7

345-364

B+

3.3

325-344

B

3.0

305-324

B-

2.7

285-304

C+

2.3

265-284

C

2.0

245-264

C-

1.7

225-244

D+

1.3

205-224

D

1.0

185-204

F

0.0

184 and less

Participation:

The student is responsible for:

1. the technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc.
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 place location and 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 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
9. a note regarding illness and technical problems - of course, if you are ill then you may need an extension – but to be fair to all concerned I will need a doctor's note to confirm your illness.

It is your responsibility not to leave everything until the last minute as technical problems can sometimes occur. If you are unsure of your computer or have frequent power outages, then prepare to

use a Library computer to avoid problems. Again I will need confirmation of all problems you encounter to be fair to all concerned in the class.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

(Updated SP 2014)

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.