

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 the human landscape, as well as the interrelationships between potential disasters. Throughout the course case studies are used to aid in understanding the complexities of environmental processes and policies, societal behaviors, and governmental responsibilities. In addition to the textbook, a variety of images and videos will be used in class to enhance the delivery of course information.

My name is: **George C. Walker ('GW')**

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: **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.

Please note that you will be given the dates for the two exams and also you will have 'open window' periods to allow you to submit the Discussion work on time and so 'make-ups' are not generally available. So please ensure that you have a reliable computer - if you have **technical problems** or your internet provider is not reliable then it is your responsibility to find a reliable way of submitting the course work. If this is an issue then I will need some written confirmation of the problem from you. In the case of **illness** written paperwork will also be needed to confirm your illness - and in such an instance of illness only one make-up per quarter will be allowed. I hope you understand as I am trying to secure a fair and responsible environment for everyone in the class.

Format.

The class is sequenced in the following order.

The two exams will contain a series of multiple choice questions. Some of these questions you will have already answered from the 'Homework Questions' (see Modules page) that are answered directly from the textbook. The remainder of the questions are from the class work - which is mostly composed of a series of PowerPoints and videos - and will be posted on this site (see the Files link on the left hand menu bar to go to this classwork). There will also be a series of images to answer on these exams. You will be given the list of 'possible images' from which this group will be chosen. You may bring into the exams personal hand written notes on 4 sides of A4 note paper to assist you in answering these exams. Please

note that these personal study notes must be in your own handwriting and not typed and/or photocopied.

Part 1 -

Introduction to Natural Hazards and Disasters.

Fundamentals of Plate Tectonics and Associated Physical Hazards.

Earthquake Processes – Earthquake Predictions, Forecasts and Mitigation.

Tsunami.

Landslides and Other Down-slope Movements.

Mid-Term Exam. - 100 points.

Part 2:

Volcanoes: Tectonic Environments and Eruptions –Volcanoes: Hazards and Mitigation.

Violent Weather, Thunderstorms and Tornadoes – Hurricanes and Nor'easters.

Climate Change.

Final Exam. - 100 points.

Discussion Topics: In addition to the Mid-Term and Final Exams you are asked to submit a series of **5 Discussion Topics by using this Canvas system.** 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. You will make a series of posts with your opening post worth a maximum of 14 points and two response posts to your classmates worth 3 points each - for a possible total of 20 points. **Please note that you cannot make all three posts on the last day of the discussion forum - this would not contribute to a meaningful week long discussion with others in the class.**

Total possible points 100.

Attendance: attendance is a required part of the course and you will secure 5 points for complete attendance at every class. **There are 20 regular classes (the class time used for the Mid-Term**

and Final are not counted) and you can secure 100 points if you attend every class. If you miss one class due to ill health please let me know and you will not miss these points on one occasion during the quarter.

Course Grading: Total possible points is 400 plus extra credit.

Extra Credit points: a total of up to 30 points -

10 points will be added to your total accumulated points if you complete the **class evaluation**. **There are also 4 'pop quizzes'** during the quarter and they can secure you a **maximum of 20 points of extra credit**. I will not be giving out the specific dates for these extra credit quizzes, but will give you some notification in class when we anticipate taking these quizzes. They will be based on work covered and you will be divided into small teams - the first placed team will secure 5 points of credit, the second team 4 points and the third placed team 3 points with everyone else in attendance securing 2 points.

Grading Scale:

A	4.0	360 and over
A-	3.7	340-359
B+	3.3	320-339
B	3.0	300-319
B-	2.7	280-299
C+	2.3	260-279
C	2.0	240-259
C-	1.7	220-239
D+	1.3	200-219
D	1.0	180-199
F	0.0	179 and less

Participation:

The student is responsible for:

1. the technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc.

Please refer to the [BC Distance Education website](#) for the [Canvas 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 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

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, language, ethnicity, religion, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Please see policy 4150 at www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Title IX Coordinator, 425-564-2641, Office C227, and EEOC/504 Compliance Officer, 425-564-2266, Office R130.

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience:

Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College [Policy 2950](#)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy ([1440P](#)).

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.***