

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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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.

Format:

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

Please note that you have 'open window' periods to allow you to submit 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.

If you **forget to submit** an assignment on time - which does occur even with the best of intentions - then I will allow you to make-up one assignment per quarter with a 25% deduction in your score. Please remember that you will only be given one opportunity to do this - and so if you forget a second time then I will not be able to allow you the chance to make-up the work at all. In most cases you can only request one make-up for any of the above reasons during the quarter. Sorry to be so precise, but it helps to be clear on this important aspect of online learning to avoid potential problems.

No make-ups will be possible in the last 5 days of the quarter.

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: 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.

3) Image Recognition Quiz: the Image Quiz will be done toward the end of the quarter - you will be given a series of images from the course and will be asked to discuss 4 of these images. You will be asked to recognize and write as much as you can in the available time to explain the image. Please see the instructions and examples of answers on the link on the Modules Page. Each image is worth a maximum of 5 points for a **total of 20 points.**

Course Grading: Total possible points is **420.**

Extra Credit points: 10 points will be added to your total accumulated points if you complete the **class evaluation.**

No make-ups will be possible in the last 5 days of the quarter.

Grading Scale:

A	4.0	390 and over
A-	3.7	380-389
B+	3.3	360-379
B	3.0	340-359
B-	2.7	320-339
C+	2.3	300-319

C	2.0	280-299
C-	1.7	260-279
D+	1.3	240-259
D	1.0	220-239
F	0.0	219 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](tel:425-564-2641), Office C227, and EEOC/504 Compliance Officer, [425-564-2266](tel: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 conscious, 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.***