**Geology 158 - Natural Disasters**

**Fall Quarter 2010** (13859, SEC 04) **Instructor**: Sonjia Leyva

**Hours**: WebCT/Blackboard  **Office:** PS 221, 323-343-2149

**Room**: WebCT/Blackboard **Office Hours:** by appointment

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| **Course Description:** Causes, characteristics, and case histories of natural disasters affecting civilization. Topics include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, storms and floods, sea waves, meteor impacts, climate change, and mass extinctions. |
| **Course Objectives:** This exciting course reviews the causes, characteristics, and case histories of the natural disasters that have plagued human history. Topics include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, storms, floods, giant sea waves, meteor impacts, climate changes, and mass extinctions. Suggestions are made for avoiding geologic hazards. Lectures are illustrated with photos that demonstrate the severity of natural disasters. Students are introduced to Internet websites that enable them to pursue any topic in greater detail in order to more fully evaluate and prepare for natural events. |
| **Text & Materials:**   * Natural Hazards and Disasters, 2006 by Donald Hyndman & David Hyndman * Enrollment in GEOL158 - Natural Disasters - GEOL158\_sl\_SEC04\_FA10\_CNSS  (Students can log into the course here: <https://webct6.calstatela.edu/webct/logon/3248010477001>) * Handouts, activities, videos, etc. |

Schedule

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| **Module** | **Topic** | **Chapter**  **& Questions** | **On-Line Quiz** | **Dates Available** |
| 1 | Introduction | 1, Q: 2, 3, & 6 | #1 | 9/24 – 10/01 |
| 2 | Plate Tectonics | 2, Q: 3, 5, & 6 | #2 | 10/02 – 10/8 |
| 3 | Earthquakes | 3, Q: 4, & 15 4, Q: 2, & 8 | #3 | 10/09 – 10/15 |
| 4 | Tsunami | 5, Q: 1, 3, 6, & 11 | #4 | 10/16 – 10/22 |
| 5 | Mass Wasting | 8, Q: 2, & 11 9, Q: 1, & 8 | #5 | 10/23 – 10/29 |
| 5 | **MIDTERM – available from 8 am to midnight, SATURDAY 10/30**  **Natural Disasters Project due by midnight, SATURDAY 10/30** | | | **10/30** |
| 6 | Volcanoes | 6, Q; 1, & 14 7, Q: 10, & 11 | #6 | 10/30 – 11/05 |
| 7 | Floods | 11, Q; 6, & 9 12, Q: 4, & 5 | #7 | 11/06 – 11/12 |
| 8 | Storms | 14, Q; 1, & 3 15, Q: 5, & 11 | #8 | 11/13 – 11/19 |
| 9 | Coastal Hazards | 13, Q; 3, 6, 8, & 10 | #9 | 11/20 – 11/26 |
| 10 | Fire | 16, Q: 1, 2, 5, & 11 | #10 | 11/27 – 12/03 |
|  | **FINAL EXAM – available from 8 am to midnight, SUNDAY 12/06** | | | **12/06** |

**REQUIREMENTS**

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| **Exams -** There will be two exams - one midterm and one final; each exam is worth 100 points. Both exams will be given on the dates listed on the syllabus on WebCT/Blackboard. The exams will be available from 8 am in the morning until midnight. You may take the exam only once, and you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam! DO NOT HIT THE BACK BUTTON OR REFRESH BUTTON! THE EXAM WILL END!   Make‑up exams will be given only to those who can verify a valid excuse for missing an exam. The make‑up will be given at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the student and myself, but must be arranged prior to the initial exam. **Failure to take the make‑up exam within two weeks of the original exam date will result in the missed exam counting in as a zero.** |
| **Quizzes –** Each Module/Topic has a quiz associated with it. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will cover what you have learned (or will learn) in that module. Students may access the quiz anytime from 8 am Saturday through midnight the following Friday (see syllabus for dates). Students have 20 minutes to take the quiz, and may take the quiz only once. **Students who do not take the quiz during the allowed time will not be allowed to make up the quiz unless they have an excused absence. No exceptions!**  I will automatically receive a copy of your exam. Your score for each quiz will be as follows: 100% = 10 pts, 90% = 9 pts, 80% = 8 pts, 70% = 7 pts, 60% = 6 pts, 50% = 5 pts, 40% = 4 pts, 30% = 3 pts, 20% = 2 pts, 10% = 1 pts, etc. You will need to complete the quiz for each chapter by the end of the week in which we are covering that chapter.  **End of Chapter Questions –** Each Module/Topic has a set of questions from the chapter(s) associated with it. Each set of questions will be worth a total of 10 points and will cover what you have read in the corresponding chapter(s). Students may access the questions anytime from 8 am Saturday through midnight the following Friday (see syllabus for dates). Students have an unlimited amount of time to answer the questions, but you can only access them ONCE (so don’t leave Blackboard or shut down your computer). The questions you will need to answer are listed on the syllabus. I suggest you answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper and then put them into Blackboard. **Students who do not take the questions during the allowed time will not be allowed to make up the questions unless they have an excused absence. No exceptions!**  I will automatically receive a copy of your questions. And no, you may not email the answers to me. They must be submitted via Blackboard.  **Research Project –** The University requires students in General Education classes to demonstrate proficiency in writing, critical thinking, and oral presentation. Therefore, each student will be expected to prepare a research paper on current issues in the field of natural disasters. Guidelines and topics for these presentations are outlined on the attached pages. You will be submitting your paper as either a MS Word (\*.doc) or Adobe Reader (\*.pdf) file via Turnitin on Blackboard. You may email me a draft copy up to one week before the due date. The final submission must be via Blackboard. **Students who do not submit the project by the posted deadline (see syllabus will not be allowed to make up the quiz unless they have an excused absence. No exceptions!** |
| **Internet Access** - Internet access is required for this class because all of the course content will be posted on the WebCT. To use WebCT you must first enroll in the course by selecting Course List → College of Natural & Social Sciences → GEOL158 - Natural Disasters - GEOL158\_sl\_SEC04\_FA10\_CNSS  (Students can log into the course here: <https://webct6.calstatela.edu/webct/logon/3248010477001>). Once there you will be able to access quizzes and other course content. Access at home or work is fine as long as you can view the web pages regularly and have a reasonably fast connection. |

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Your grade in this class is based upon the points YOU earn through completing assignments, quizzes, assignments, and exams. Nothing in this class is curved. Your grade is based upon your performance. Your final grade in this class is based on your percentage score out of 400 points. See the table below.

Total possible class points will come from the following assignments:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Points possible** | **Total Points Possible** | **% of grade** |
| **Exams** | 2 exams at 100 points each | 200 | 40.0% |
| **Quizzes** | 10 @ 10 points each | 100 | 20.0% |
| **Chapter Questions** | 10 @ 10 points each | 100 | 20.0% |
| **Natural Disasters Project** | 100 points total | 100 | 20.0% |
|  | **Total** | **500** | **100%** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | A = > 90% | > 450.0 points |
| B = 80 - 89% | 400.0 - 449.9 points |
| C = 70 - 79% | 350.0 - 399.9 points |
| D = 60 - 69% | 300.0 - 349.9 points |
| F = < 60% | < 300.0 points |

Natural Disaster Project

In this activity you will be answering the following essential question: What can you do to prepare for a natural disaster? Your task will be to create a preparedness guide to one of the following different natural disasters:

* Hurricane
* Tornado
* Volcanic Eruption
* Earthquake
* Tsunami
* Lightning
* Landslide/Debris flow
* Thunderstorms

You will then compile the information you have gathered into a single document that answers the following questions:

1. Assess the risk:
   * How common is this disaster and where does this disaster normally occur?
   * What are the major causes of damage, destruction, death associated with this disaster?
2. Prepare, Respond, & Recover:
   * What can be done before, during and after the disaster happens?
3. Reducing the risk:
   * What, if anything, can be done to prevent this disaster from occurring?
   * What can be done to reduce the damages caused by this disaster (if any)?
4. Plan ahead:
   * Create an *Emergency Disaster Plan* for yourself and your family. This plan should be tailored to you and your family’s needs and should be for any type of emergency. Items to include are:
     + a map of your house (or apartment) showing the location of major utilities (gas, water, etc)*,* escape route & earthquake supplies and potential hazards (heavy furniture, bookcases, large windows or mirrors, etc)
     + an evacuation plan
     + a list of household members (Identify anyone with impairments or who may need help evacuating)
     + a meeting place to gather when it is safe
     + the name and number of an out-of-state contact
   * Plan a *Home Emergency Disaster Kit* for yourself and your family. It is important to be prepared to survive without electricity, phones, water, etc. for up to three days after a disaster. Create a detailed list of supplies you and your family will need to survive post-disaster. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THESE ITEMS AS A PART OF THIS PROJECT!

Your project will need to be in the following format:

* Introduction
* Body of report (Assess the risk, Prepare, Respond, & Recover, Reducing the risk, & Plan ahead)
* Conclusion
* Bibliography (in correct format!)
* Appendices (if needed)

You will be graded on the quality of your research, the quality of your writing, answering as completely as possible the questions posed above, and neatness.

Please plan on using at least five (5) difference sources for your research, two of which must be something other than a website (ie, a book, a magazine article, etc.). DO NOT simply copy and paste information from websites or other documents! This is plagiarizing and will not be tolerated. You may not use your textbook or my lecture notes as resources.

Natural Disaster Project

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| **Points will be awarded as follows:** | **points possible** |
| **Formatting** |  |
| Typing and margin instructions followed |  |
| 10 to 12 point Arial or Times Roman (or similar) font | 3 points |
| 1 ½ line spacing |  |
| 1” margins on all sides |  |
|  |  |
| 3 – 5 pages in length | 5 points |
| Spell check / Typos | 2 points |
| Narrative and Writing Style |  |
| Connection of thoughts / Transitions | 2 points |
| Verb & subject agreement / Grammar | 2 points |
| Correct Essay Format | 2 points |
| Punctuation / Run on sentences / Sentence fragments | 2 points |
| Development of ideas | 2 points |
|  |  |
|  | **20 points** |
|  |  |
| **Report** |  |
| Introduction | 5 points |
| Assessment of risk | 10 points |
| Prepare, Respond, & Recover | 20 points |
| Reducing the risk | 10 points |
| Planning ahead | 20 points |
| Emergency Disaster Plan |  |
| Home Emergency Disaster Kit |  |
| Conclusion | 10 points |
| Bibliography | 5 points |
|  |  |
|  | **80 points** |
|  |  |
| **Total points possible** | **100 points** |

**IMPORTANT POLICIES (a.k.a. the “fine print”)**

* **Statement of Reasonable Accommodation**:
  + The Department of Geological Sciences faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The members of the faculty will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) who needs and requests accommodation. The faculty may wish to contact the OSD to verify the presence of a disability and confirm that accommodation is necessary. The OSD will arrange and provide for the accommodation.
  + Reasonable accommodation may involve allowing a student to use an interpreter, note taker, or reader; accommodation may be needed during class sessions and for administration of examinations. The intent of the ADA in requiring consideration of reasonable accommodation is not to give a particular student an unfair advantage over other students, but simply to allow a student with disability to have an equal opportunity to be successful.
* **Student Conduct**:
  + Student conduct is viewed as a serious matter by the faculty members of the Department of Geological Sciences. The Department faculty members assume that all students will conduct themselves as mature citizens of the campus community and will conduct themselves in a manner congruent with university policies and regulations. Inappropriate conduct is subject to discipline as provided for in Title 5, California Code of Regulations (see student conduct: rights and responsibilities, and student discipline, CSULA General Catalog). Academic honesty is expected of all students in the Department, in accordance with University policy. There are established university reporting procedures if a student is suspected of committing an academically dishonest act.
  + The University has a clearly defined policy on Academic Honesty. This policy will be enforced in this class. **Cheating and plagiarizing will not be tolerated.** Students caught plagiarizing and/or cheating will be subject to the consequences and set forth in the University Catalog, Appendix D - Academic Honesty. You can access it online at: <http://catalog.calstatela.edu>
* **Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will be given only to those who can verify a valid excuse for missing a quiz. The make-up will be given at a time that is mutually agreeable to both the student and myself. **Failure to take the make-up exam within two weeks of the original exam date will result in the missed exam counting in as a zero.**
* **Grading:** 
  + University policy allows a grade of incomplete to be given only to those who have been sick, injured, or have a similar valid excuse. A grade of “incomplete” will not be given after poor performance in the course.
  + If you are repeating any Cal State L.A. course in order to remove a D or an F from your transcript, you must file an **academic renewal petition** in Administration 101 no later than the last day to add a class. Instructions for doing this may be found under **"Academic Renewal"** in your Schedule of Classes.
  + University policy requires that all students shall be graded in *exactly* the same fashion. What does this mean? You may not ask for extra assignments or to repeat an exam to improve your grade, or additional assignments after the course is completed.
  + **Your final grade is based upon the points you EARN in the class. Thus, you do not “deserve” a certain grade – you earn it.**
* **Avoid the hassles.** Take the Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE) after you have completed your English Composition and prior to the completion of 135 units in order to avoid a registration hold. The dates for the WPE are published in the Schedule of Classes. Enroll by registering in UNIV 400 and paying the $15 exam fee. Do it now!!!