GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: Spring 2019

GEOGRAPHY 311
H(3-0)

Natural Events and Human Disasters

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Please note: This course is taught off-campus.

Official Course Description:
This course will explore how various Earth processes create hazards for humans in different regions. Topics include but are not limited to: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, floods, landslides, hurricanes, drought, famine and disease. Lectures will focus on: (1) the causes of dangerous natural events, (2) how the physical geography of a region affects its vulnerability, (3) historic human impacts, and (4) how people in different regions perceive and mitigate risk from these events.

Course Objectives
The primary course objective is to explore natural disasters as complex interactions between humans and physical processes. The physical processes that create hazards will be introduced and factors that amplify or dampen their impact on humans or infrastructure will be emphasized. The factors that influence human vulnerability and resiliency will be stressed. Exploration of these interactions will be accomplished through lectures, pre-departure videos, and in-field projects.

Prerequisite: None

Required Readings:
Readings will be assigned throughout the course. Bibliography will be posted on D2L.

Course Learning Outcomes:
The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-level learning outcomes (PLO) they facilitate, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Explain why disaster severity is related to both event intensity and human vulnerability	2	1
Explain why event intensity and human vulnerability are spatially and temporally variable	4	1
Select and justify which elements of human vulnerability contributed to historic natural disasters	2	1
Explain the challenges to increasing resiliency to natural disasters	2	1
Explain the geographical distribution of natural disasters	4	1
Summarize, evaluate the information content of different sources	8	1

PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes: 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data

and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. **Levels:** (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced

Grading (Weighting):

Test 1	10%
Test 2 (in field)	10%
Photo essays (2)	30%
Field notebook	25%
Guided selfie hunt	10%
Final exam	15%

It is **not** necessary to pass each component in order to pass the course.

The Registrar will **not** schedule the Final Exam: it will be scheduled on the last day of the Field School.

Grading System

A+	100-95%	B	79.9-75%	C-	62.9-59%
A	94.9-90%	B-	74.9-71%	D+	58.9-55%
A-	89.9-85%	C+	70.9-67%	D	54.9-50%
B+	84.9-80%	C	66.9-63%	F	49.9% and less

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor Desire2Learn at https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home

Human subjects

Students will NOT participate as subjects or researchers on human subjects.