

GEOG 306 Geographies of Disaster

Course Description

- This course provides a broad global overview of disasters resulting from natural or technological hazards. Disasters continue to maim and kill; the property losses continue to increase. This course emphasizes the spatial and temporal distribution of hazards, the human impact of disaster, roles played by technology and society in creating or worsening risky situations, and policy options for disaster preparation and loss reduction.
- This is an approved General Education course and is part of Upper Division Theme U Catastrophe and Humanity.

Course Objectives

- a. Understanding how the analysis of natural disasters illuminates the relationship between society and nature
- b. Gaining insights into how different societies manage crises
- c. Identifying the "normal" response to disaster
- d. Providing insights into how natural disasters are inevitable byproducts of human interaction with their environment

Course Materials

Required: *Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster* by Keith Smith, Routledge, 2004.
Guide to Global Hazards by Robert Kovach and Bill McGuire, Firefly, 2003
Earthweek at www.earthweek.com, at <http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8092/>, or each week in your Saturday newspaper.
Plagues and Pleasures on the Salton Sea, a movie by Chris Metzler and Jeff Springer, Tuesday, October 30, 106 Ayres, 7:30 PM

Course Grading

Earthweek	14@	5 points	70 points
Midterm exams	3 @	50 points	150 points
Field trip or movie notes	1 @	20 points	20 points
Paper	1 @	50 points	50 points
Final Exam	1 @	60 points	60 points
Total points			350 points

Grade Assignment

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	65%-69%
F	<65%

Weekly Quiz / Field or Movie Notes: A weekly quiz will be given that focuses on the Earthweek column published on the Internet (www.earthweek.com), in the course materials web page (<http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8092/>), in the Saturday San Francisco Chronicle, or in the Saturday Sacramento Bee. There will be no early, late, or make-up quizzes. A two page (double-spaced) summary of the field trip or a discussion of the movie will be submitted. More than three errors in grammar or spelling will reduce the grade to a maximum of 'C'.

Paper: A page paper discussing a disaster event or hazard in Butte County, Glenn County, or Tehama County will be submitted. The paper must be exactly five pages in length. More than three errors in grammar or spelling will reduce the grade to a maximum of 'C'. The paper is due by the end of class on Thursday, November 15th. The paper may be evaluated for plagiarism using either GOOGLE or TURNITIN.

Exams Each exam will be comprehensive. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer, matching, and true/false. Early exams will not be given.

Adding, dropping or changing the grade option in this course.

Students who miss the first two class meetings will be removed from the class roster. After the fourth week of classes (Friday, September 21 at 5:00 PM) and prior to the last three weeks of instruction, ADDING or DROPPING will be permitted only for SERIOUS AND COMPELLING reasons as described in the university catalog. Drops after the Thanksgiving break and the end of the semester require documentation of serious illness or accident.

Course Schedule GEOG 306

Date		Kovach and McGuire	Smith	Earthweek	Focus	Topic	Special Event
August	28	Intro	1		Hazard	Basics	
	30				Management		
September	4		2	X		Insurance	
	6						
	11		3	X	Concepts	Pleasant Hill	
	13						
	18		4	X	Concepts	Medicine	
	20						1st midterm exam
	25			X	Concepts	Storm and Fog	
	27						Field Trip—Local Hazards 8:00-5:00
October	2	Earthquakes, Tsunami, Waves, Ice Hazards	5	X	Tectonic	Local Landscapes	
	4						
	9	Volcanoes	6	X	Mass wasting	Aviation	
	11						
	16	Avalanches, Landslides	7	X	Storms	Fire	
	18						2 nd midterm exam
	23	Winds, Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Storms, Rain and hail, Lightning, Snow and Ice	8	X	Storms	Perception	
	25						
	30	Diseases	9	X	Biophys		Salton Sea Movie 106 Ayres, 7:30
November	1						
	6	Flooding, Storm Surges, Coastal Erosion	10	X			
	8					Wrights Beach	
	13	Desertification, Drought and Famine, Fires, Global Warming, El Nino	11	X	Drought		
	15						3rd midterm exam--Paper due
	27	Water Pollution, Ozone Depletion, Acid Rain, Land Contamination, Habitat and Species Loss	12	X	Technology	Human Impacts	
	29						
December	4	Great Extinctions, Meteorites and Comets	13	X	Apocalypse	Catastrophe	
	6						
	11		14	X			Movie
	13						
	18						Final exam Tuesday, 12:00-1:50 pm