

## GEOL 100: Natural Disasters, Spring 2018 Section 1003 (24647), Distance Education

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**Office Hours:** Available via WebCampus or by e-mail during normal business hours M-F. Ask all questions well in advance of deadlines as it will take time to reply.

**Course Format:** WebCampus hosted Distance Education

**Required Textbook:** *Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes*, Keller, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Edward A. and Duane E. DeVecchio

**Prerequisites:** No university prerequisites

This is a Distance Education (DE) course and the entire course, including all lecture materials, quizzes and exams are provided through the Webcampus page for the course. It is your responsibility to access the course via Webcampus and complete all the required assignments in a timely manner. To be successful in this class, you need to be an active learner who is self-motivated and well organized. Work through each learning module and read the assigned textbook chapters according to the schedule provided and you will stay on track for the course. However, you may also work ahead and complete all the course materials in advance of the last day of class.

### **Purpose of this class:**

This course is designed for anyone with an interest in natural catastrophic events and a desire to learn more about how the physical environment functions (particularly with regard to the hazards presented by cataclysmic natural disasters). During this semester we will focus on impending disasters, potential planet-altering events, and the way that society has responded in the past and may respond in the future to natural disasters. Topical areas of particular focus will comprise those disasters with a potential for occurrence in the Western US, including: volcanoes, earthquakes, wildfires, flooding droughts, and rapid anthropogenic-driven climate change. Throughout the semester, we will discuss personal and local preparedness in the face of potential future disasters.

### **Learning outcomes of this class:**

- Identify the locations in the United States that are subject to the major hazards (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, extreme weather, and wildfires) and explain the basic earth processes involved in these natural events
- Evaluate the potential and risks for the occurrence of the afore listed majors hazards by accessing and interpreting available hazard maps available from government agencies
- Demonstrate practical knowledge with regard to preparing for potential disasters at home and in the community
- Model the ability to share knowledge with the general public about risks from natural events and human-induced hazards

**Grading Policy:** (Final grades are rounded to nearest whole number)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Semester average</u>
A	≥93	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	less than 60

**Final grades will be computed as follows:**

Graded Activity	#	Questions and Points	Pts	%	Due Date
Chapter Quizzes	13	5 questions/10 points each	130	19	Can be completed at any time, but must be completed by exam cutoff dates for each section of the course (see schedule)
Exercises	3	# questions varies by exercise/30 points each	90	13	
Exams	4	60 questions/120 points each	480	68	
			700	100	

Note: No extra credit or make-up will be given, so work ahead to avoid personal, computer, family and work issues that could affect your ability to submit your completed work on time. **NO GRADE CHANGE REQUESTS PLEASE**

**Each day you should:**

1. Read the assigned chapter in the textbook
2. Login to Webcampus and enter the appropriate chapter learning module
3. Print out the pdf lecture notes pages for your own use while listening and viewing the narrated lecture videos
4. View each part of the narrated video lecture assigned for that day (taking notes as needed)
5. Complete the short, five question chapter quiz after having reviewed all the materials for that week
6. Maintain good communication with the course through the discussion board and WebCampus mail as questions arise or as you notice questions from other students that you think you might be able to answer
7. Take the exam assigned for that part of the course as well as any remaining quizzes by the 11:59pm cutoff
8. Submit all exercises on time (due by the module exam deadline for each exercise)

**Changes to syllabus:** The attached lecture schedule is tentative; adjustments to the schedule of topics and reading assignments may be made in accordance with the rate and progress in the classroom. The instructor also reserves the right to change a lecture topic to reflect world events. Students will be provided with an updated syllabus if significant changes are necessary (i.e. modifications to the schedule of exams).

**Class schedule**

Date	Reading	Narrated Video Lecture Topic to Study	Your Assignment
<b>Week 1</b>			
Jan. 16- Jan. 21	Chapter 1	Introduction to Natural Hazards	Chapter 1 Quiz
<b>Week 2</b>			
Jan. 22- Jan. 28	Chapter 2	Internal Structure of Earth and Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2 Quiz
<b>Week 3</b>			
Jan. 29- Feb. 4	Chapter 3	Earthquakes	Chapter 3 Quiz
<b>Week 4</b>			
Feb. 5- Feb. 11	Chapter 4	Tsunamis <b>Exercise 1</b> <b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)</b>	Chapter 4 Quiz <b>Quizzes 1-4, Exercise 1,</b> <b>and Exam 1 due at</b> <b>10:00pm on Feb. 11</b>

<b>Week 5</b>			
Feb. 12- Feb. 18	Chapter 5	Volcanoes	Chapter 5 Quiz
<b>Week 6</b>			
Feb. 19- Feb. 25	Chapter 6	Flooding	Chapter 6 Quiz
<b>Week 7</b>			
Feb. 26- Mar. 4	Chapter 7	Mass Wasting <b>Exercise 2</b> <b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5-7)</b>	Chapter 7 Quiz <b>Quizzes 5-7, Exercise 2,</b> <b>and Exam 2 due at</b> <b>10:00pm on Mar. 4</b>
<b>Week 8</b>			
Mar. 5- Mar. 11	Chapter 9	Atmospheric Processes and Severe Weather	Chapter 9 Quiz
<b>Week 9</b>			
Mar. 12- Mar. 18	Chapter 10	Hurricanes and Extratropical Cyclones	Chapter 10 Quiz
<b>Week 10</b>			
Mar. 19- Mar. 25	Chapter 11	Coastal Hazards <b>Exercise 3</b> <b>Exam 3 (Chapters 9-11)</b>	Chapter 11 Quiz <b>Quizzes 9-11, Exercise 3,</b> <b>and Exam 3 due at</b> <b>10:00pm on Mar. 25</b>
<b>Spring Break March 26 – 31</b>			
<b>Week 11</b>			
Apr. 2- Apr. 8	Chapter 12	Climate and Climate Change	Chapter 12 Quiz
<b>Week 12</b>			
Apr. 9- Apr. 15	Chapter 13	Wildfires	Chapter 13 Quiz
<b>Week 13</b>			
Apr. 16- Apr. 22	Chapter 14	Impacts and Extinctions	Chapter 14 Quiz
<b>Week 14</b>			
Apr. 23- Apr. 29	Additional study time		
<b>Week 15</b>			
Apr. 30- May 5	<b>Exam 4 (Chapters 12-14)</b>		<b>Quizzes 12-14, and</b> <b>Exam 4 due at 10:00pm on</b> <b>May 5 <u>**Saturday**</u></b>

## **Additional information on quizzes, exams and group exercises:**

### **1. Quizzes**

All quizzes are brief (five question) multiple choice type assessments that may also include some true and false questions. You are allowed to use your book and notes from the narrated video lectures in answering the questions, but, you must complete the quiz within the **30 minute time limit**. It is recommended that you take the quiz on the day that the chapter is assigned, however, you may take it as early as you would like or as late as the day of the scheduled exam for that learning module section of the course. Access to all quizzes for that section and the exam will be terminated by 10:00pm on the day that the exam is scheduled.

### **2. Exams**

All four exams that occur at the end of each learning module are 60 questions long and contain both multiple choice and some true and false questions. You are allowed to use your book and notes from the narrated video lectures in answering the questions, but, you must complete each exam within the **2 hour time limit**. Do not attempt to take the exam prior to having read the chapter and viewed all the narrated video lectures. The exam will only be available until 10:00pm on the day scheduled on the syllabus. You must have completed the entire exam and all quizzes in that section of the course by that cutoff time or else all remaining unanswered questions will be marked wrong. Please note that once you begin an exam, you must complete it in one sitting and avoid losing internet connectivity. As all quizzes and exams are available from the first day of the class, you may take it as soon as you have sufficiently prepared yourself to be successful.

### **3. Exercises**

Three individual exercises are due at different times during the semester. You will need to review the relevant information and then take responsibility for completing each part of the exercise to the best of your ability. These exercises are intended to be both fun and informative, but will also require you to put into practice some of what you have learned during the course of the lectures.

## **Logistics and policies**

### **1. Participation**

Engage with the material and **please send me your questions** for clarification and further explanation. I have enabled the discussion forum to allow you to communicate and discuss any difficult topics that you find with your classmates and myself. Your participation is voluntary but will greatly benefit you and the rest of the class.

### **2. Attendance**

This is a DE class so attendance isn't a concern, however, any missed quizzes, exams or exercises will count as a zero. Personal issues may arise and technical problems can occur, but it is your responsibility to see that these issues do not affect your ability to review the material and take the tests as scheduled on the syllabus. Remember that you can work ahead and that I allow you the flexibility of taking the quizzes, exam and complete the group exercises at any time prior to 10:00pm on the day that section of the course is scheduled to close.

### **3. Academic Misconduct**

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

### **4. Administrative drops/Classroom conduct**

You are required to be familiar with university policies and procedures in the current UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Importantly, we follow the policies on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty that are stated in the most recent UNLV Undergraduate Catalog. Any student that does not comply with these requirements and conducts themselves in a manner that is disruptive and interferes with the right of other students to learn or of the instructor to teach will be administratively dropped from the course.

## **5. Recording Lectures**

Absolutely **no electronic recording or posting** of lectures or other materials (including all WebCampus materials) will be allowed without my prior approval.

## **6. Bringing children/guests to class**

Students are not generally allowed to bring guests, including children to lecture. As this is an online class, this is not an issue. Please see me with any questions.

## **7. Disability Resource Center (DRC)**

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

## **8. UNLV Writing Center**

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

## **9. Tutoring and Coaching**

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TBE second floor.

## **10. Library Resources**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. Subject librarians for various classes can be found here: [https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

## **11. Transparency in Learning and Teaching**

The University encourages students to use a transparency template to discuss with their instructors how assignments and course activities benefit student success: [https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_files/27/TILT-Framework-Students.pdf](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/TILT-Framework-Students.pdf)

## **12. Religious Holiday Policy**

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

## **13. Official extracurricular activity**

All students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity have the opportunity to make up an assignment. However, you must provide official written notification to me at least 1 week prior to the missed class(es).

#### **14. Nondiscrimination**

The University of Nevada Las Vegas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

#### **15. Copyright**

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

#### **16. Rebelmail**

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

#### **17. Incomplete Grades**

The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

#### **18. Final Examinations**

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.