

Effective: Summer 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Natural Hazards

Course Number: GEOG 207

Credits: 3

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring)
12 (Summer)

Total Hours: 39

Course Level: ☐ First Year ☒ Second Year
☐ New ☐ Revised Course
☐ Replacement Course

Department: Social Sciences

Department Head: Audrey McDougall

Former Course Code: N/A

Pre-requisites: Geography 101 or Geography 102 or equivalent

Co-requisite Statement: NONE

Precluded Courses: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates the human dimensions of the global experience with natural hazards and associated disasters. It will explore the physical nature of a variety of events and processes such as earthquakes, global warming, floods, cyclones, tsunamis. These events are defined as hazards because they pose a threat to human interests, lives, and their built infrastructure. In addition, disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and hazard mitigation will be examined.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Earth's geologic, hydrologic, and atmospheric processes
- Identify the cause-and-effect relationships between earth processes and natural hazards
- Assess the potential impact on society and infrastructure
- Identify the mitigation strategies used to minimize the impact of natural hazards

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	23
Seminars/Tutorials	8
Laboratory	5
Field Experience	3
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades ☒ Percentage ☐ Pass/Fail ☐ Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory ☐ Other ☐

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 10% <i>Current event summary – One report, individual project</i>	Lab Work: Five Labs 10% Five Case Studies 5% <i>with local focus</i>	Participation: 5% <i>“Practice” Questions related to weekly lectures</i>	Project: 10% <i>Group Presentation – Disaster Case Study</i>
Quizzes/Test: 15% <i>Two tests</i>	Midterm Exams: 15%	Final Exam: 20%	Other: 10% <i>Field Report – Group Project</i>

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

Natural Disasters 11th Edition, by Patrick L. Abbott
 McGraw-Hill Higher Education International
 Print ISBN: 9781260566045, 12605660488
 eText ISBN: 9781260568776, 1260568776
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COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Natural Disasters and the Human Population
Week 2	Internal Energy and Plate Tectonics
Week 3	Earthquake Geology and Seismology
Week 4	Tsunamis
Week 5	Volcanism
Week 6	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 7	External Energy Fuels Weather and Climate
Week 8	Hurricanes/Cyclones/Typhoons and Tornadoes/Lightning
Week 9	Floods & Fires
Week 10	Field Day and Project
Week 11	Weathering and Mass Movements
Week 12	Climate Change

Week 13 Review for Final Exam

Week 14 **FINAL EXAM**

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: bctransferguide.ca

Last Revised: March 2025

Last Reviewed: March 2025