COQUITLAM COLLEGE
Established 1982

COURSE OUTLINE

Effective: Spring 2026

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 104 or Geography 105 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 (*specify):*	
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% *Current event summary – One report, individual project*	Lab Work: Five Labs 10% Five Case Studies 5% *with local focus*	Participation: 5% *"Practice" Questions related to weekly lectures*	Project: 10% *Group Presentation – Disaster Case Study*
Quizzes/Test: 15% *Two tests*	Midterm Exams: 15%	Final Exam: 20%	Other: 10% *Field Report – Group Project*

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: November 14, 2025
Last Reviewed: November 14, 2025