

NATURAL DISASTERS - Geology 303
Course Outline, Fall 2005

Dr. Vic Camp

Office -- GMCS-228K

Office Hours: MWF 1100-1200, or by appointment

email -- vcamp@geology.sdsu.edu

Recommend Text -- Abbott (2004), *Natural Disasters*, 4th edition (W. C. Brown Publishers)

Course Description -- This is a general education course for upper-division students. It does not count toward a degree in geology. The course will examine the earth and its dynamic natural processes, particularly those that affect humankind. The course will emphasize the inner workings and principles underlying natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, meteorite impacts, stream and coastal floods, land subsidence, and population growth. Many examples will be drawn from historic catastrophes, including some which have occurred in southern California.

Guidelines -- This science course is largely descriptive. It requires critical thinking and analysis through the use of words and diagrams, generally without recourse to mathematical formulas and chemical equations. You are encouraged to ask questions and invoke discussion at any time.

Examinations and Grading -- Final grades will be based on four exams, each worth 100 points, and a writing assignment worth 30 points. Guidelines for the assignment will be available on Blackboard on the day of the third exam, and the assignment is due one week later (see Course Schedule). Late papers will not be accepted. Your lowest exam score will be dropped and the final grade assigned on the basis of 330 total points. There will be **no make-up exams**. If you miss an exam, it will be dropped as your lowest score; however, you **cannot drop the final examination**. If you are taking the course CR/NC, you must obtain a C grade for Credit. Class grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 100 - 92 %
A- = 91.99 - 90%

B+ = 89.99 - 88%
B = 87.99 - 82 %
B- = 81.99 - 80%

C+ = 79.99 - 78%
C = 77.99 - 70%
C- = 69.99 - 65%

D+ = 64.99 - 63%
D = 62.99 - 55%
D- = 54.99 - 50%

F < 50%

Scantron -- Purchase *one* large red Parscore Scantron (F-288) for the first exam, and *three* normal-sized Parscore Scantrons (F-289) for the remaining exams.

Preliminary Class Schedule
(Changes may be made as necessary)

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	RELEVANT CHAPTERS in ABBOTT (2004)
Sept. 1	Introduction / Earth's Development / Energy Sources for Disasters	Chapter 1
Sept. 6/8	Geologic time / Earth Materials / Plate Tectonics	Chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 13/15	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2
Sept. 20/22	EXAM 1 (Sept. 20) / Extinctions & Meteorite Impacts	Chapters 14 and 15
Sept. 27/29	Extinctions and Meteorite Impacts	Chapters 15 , 6, and 7
Oct. 4/6	Volcanoes	Chapters 6 and 7
Oct. 11/13	Volcanoes	Chapters 6 and 7
Oct. 18/20	Volcanoes	Chapters 6 and 7
Oct. 25/27	EXAM 2 (Oct. 25) / Earthquakes Writing Assignment Available on Blackboard (Oct. 25) Writing Assignment due (Nov. 1) /	Chapters 3 and 4

Nov. 1/3	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Nov. 8/10	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Nov. 15/17	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Nov. 22/24	Landslides / Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 24)	Chapter 8
Nov. 29/Dec. 1	EXAM 3 (Nov. 29) / Severe Weather	Chapter 10
Dec. 6/8	Severe Weather / Floods	Chapters 10 and 12
Dec. 13	Floods	Chapter 12
Dec. 20 (Tuesday)	FINAL EXAM (1300-1500)	

Note: Final exam *must* be taken at this time - absolutely no exceptions.