

ERTH 108 – Natural Disasters Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Hanson

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Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00

Optional text: Natural Hazards and Disasters by Hyndman & Hyndman

Lecture Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| 1-12 | Introduction | |
| 1-14 | All About Natural Disasters | Ch. 1 |
| 1-15 | Plate Tectonics | Ch. 2 |
| 1-19 | MLK Day – Long weekend!! | |
| 1-21 | Earthquakes | Ch. 3 |
| 1-22 | Earthquakes | Ch. 3 |
| 1-26 | Earthquakes | |
| 1-28 | Volcanoes | Ch. 6 |
| 1-29 | Volcanoes | Ch. 6 |
| 2-2 | Volcanoes | Ch. 7 |
| 2-4 | Volcanoes | Ch. 7 |
| 2-5 | Exam 1 | |
| 2-9 | Tsunamis | Ch. 5 |
| 2-11 | Tsunamis | Ch. 5 |
| 2-12 | Landslides | Ch. 8 |
| 2-16 | Landslides | Ch. 8 |
| 2-18 | Landslides | Ch. 8 |
| 2-19 | Floods | Ch. 11 |
| 2-23 | Floods | Ch. 12 |
| 2-25 | Exam 2 | |
| 2-26 | Weather | Ch. 10 |
| 3-2 | Not quite Spring, Spring Break – No class!!! | |
| 3-4 | Not quite Spring, Spring Break – No class!!! | |
| 3-5 | Not quite Spring, Spring Break – No class!!! | |
| 3-9 | Weather | Ch. 10 |
| 3-11 | Hurricanes | Ch. 14 |
| 3-12 | Hurricanes | Ch. 14 |
| 3-16 | Hurricanes | Ch. 14 |
| 3-18 | Coastal Erosion | Ch. 13 |
| 3-19 | Coastal Erosion | Ch. 13 |
| 3-23 | Coastal Erosion | Ch. 13 |
| 3-25 | Exam 3 | |
| 3-26 | Thunderstorms | Ch. 15 |
| 3-30 | Tornadoes | Ch. 15 |
| 4-1 | Tornadoes | Ch. 15 |
| 4-2 | Tornadoes | Ch. 15 |
| 4-6 | Wildfires | Ch. 16 |
| 4-8 | Ribbons of Excellence Day – No Class! | |
| 4-9 | Wildfires | Ch. 16 |
| 4-13 | Asteroid Impacts | Ch. 17 |
| 4-15 | Asteroid Impacts | Ch. 17 |
| 4-16 | Avalanches | |
| 4-20 | Disasters & the Future | |
| 4-22 | Disasters & the Future | |
| 4-23 | Gift from your instructor – No Class!! | |

Final Exam – Tuesday 28 April; 12:00 – 2:00

Lab Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------|---|
| 1-13 | No Lab |
| 1-20 | Plate Tectonics |
| 1-27 | Earthquakes |
| 2-3 | Volcanoes |
| 2-10 | Volcanoes |
| 2-17 | Landslides |
| 2-24 | Lab Midterm Exam |
| 3-3 | Spring (sort of) Break - No Lab!!! |
| 3-10 | Weather Maps |
| 3-17 | Floods & Weather |
| 3-24 | Hurricanes |
| 3-31 | Coastlines |
| 4-7 | Wildfires |
| 4-14 | Asteroid Impacts |
| 4-21 | Lab Final Exam |

Class Policies & Procedures

Attendance:

It is imperative that you attend all scheduled classes and labs. Attendance will not be taken in lectures. However, it is **your** responsibility to get any homework assignments which may have been given in class and the lecture material (some of which may not be covered in the text). Attendance **will** be taken in lab. If you miss a lab, you will be allowed to make up the material if you have a verified excuse (i.e. substantiated medical or family emergency). The missed assignment must be turned within 1 week to receive full credit for the exercise.

Exams:

All exams will be given according to the schedule on the first page. You **MUST** notify me in advance if you are going to miss an exam. Make-up exams will be given **ONLY** if you have a substantiated emergency (i.e. medical emergency, death in family etc.).

Grades:

Lecture:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 4 exams @ 15% each | 60% |
| Homework | 10% |

Lab:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Lab exercises | 10% |
| 2 exams @ 10% each | 20% |

If necessary, I will adjust the grade scale for each exam *upwards* to a class mean of 75%. No extra credit assignments will be given. Final grades will be calculated as follows:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| 93 – 100% | A |
| 90 – 92% | A- |
| 87 – 89 % | B+ |
| 83 – 86% | B |
| 80 – 82% | B- |
| 77 – 79% | C+ |
| 73 – 76% | C |
| 70 – 72% | C- |
| 67 – 69% | D+ |
| 63 – 66% | D |
| 60 – 62% | D- |
| Below 60% | F |