

GEO/GLG 170: Lecture/Lab Disasters – Living on the Edge

Fall 2019

FACULTY INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 to 12:00

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

GEO/GLG 170: Disasters – Living on the Edge 4 cr

Study of various environmental hazards, their causes, impacts on humans, and mitigations. Core topics are natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, flooding, landslides, tornadoes, hurricanes), and anthropogenic hazards (climate change/global warming, nuclear hazards, and overpopulation). Additional topics may be covered: coastal hazards, pollution of groundwater, air, soil, and water, other atmospheric hazards (extreme weather, droughts), impacts from space, extinctions, biohazards, chemical hazards, and terrorism. May not be taken for credit by students who have had GLG 169 or GLG 135. NS

COURSE OUTLINE

- Overview Desire to Learn
- Overview of Hazards Research
- Meteorological Hazards
 - o Thunderstorms
 - o Extratropical Cyclonic Storms
 - o Hurricanes
 - o Tornadoes
- Climatological Hazards
 - o Drought

- o Sea Level Rise
- Anthropogenic Hazards
 - o Global Warming
 - o Ozone Depletion
 - o Acid Rain
 - o Water Pollution
- Geological Hazards
 - o Earthquakes
 - o Volcanoes
 - o Seismic Sea Wave sor Tsunamis
 - o Flooding

COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are for you to gain an understanding of:

- The physical process associated with natural hazards
- The related concepts of disaster magnitude and the recurrence intervals of hazardous events
- The geographic distribution of natural hazards
- The historical impacts of natural hazardous on society
- The proactive and reactive mitigation strategies implemented to reduce the impact of natural hazards

As a result of the successful completion of this course, you will improve your ability to:

- Analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and interpret information and ideas.
- Interpret graphs, tables, and diagrams.
- Select and apply scientific and other appropriate methodologies.
- Recognize and use a variety of written communication forms and styles.
Read and listen with comprehension and critical perception.
- Demonstrate a large and varied vocabulary

READINGS

With each topic that we consider during the semester, I will provide you with a list of readings. All of these readings are online. Some of the readings are required and others are just suggested. You will find the list of readings at the bottom of the study guide associated with each lesson.

COURSE TOPICS IN BRIEF

You will find a link to *Course Topics in Brief*. There is a summary for each topic that we will cover over the semester. I strongly suggest that you read over the material associated with upcoming classes. It will give you a rather complete overview of what we will cover in class. The summaries are not a substitute for taking class notes.

GEO/GLG 170 COURSE SITE

You will be using the *GEO/GLG 170 Course Site* extensively for this course on the UWSP CANVAS courseware platform. Outlines for all of your classes will be posted to it. Additionally, any important announcements or alternative class assignments in the event of my absence from class will be posted to it. Use your UWSP user name and password to log into the site. Your user name and password are the same as you would use for your campus email account.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Class attendance and participation is expected. Class attendance is not calculated directly into your final grade. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire notes from your classmates.

ALTERNATE CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In the event that I am not able to teach class due to illness or weather, an announcement will be placed on the website and posted on the classroom door.

Alternative class assignments will be posted to the class website. This work will take the place of our scheduled class. These assignments will be self-explanatory. (We will review the assignment following the class that I am absent.) Each assignment will have a value of 25 points and will be considered in your final class average in the calculation of final grades.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Learning is a serious business and should be approached as a job. Just as if you were working on a job certain behavior is appropriate and expected. If for some reason you must arrive for class late or leave class early, please do so quietly. Please keep your conversation to a minimum during class time. Excessive talking during class is distracting to your fellow students and to the instructor. If I feel that any student is being disruptive in the classroom, I will take appropriate actions based on the guidelines of UW-Stevens Point.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student who has a disability and feels that alternative accommodations need to be made to facilitate their classroom experience should contact Student Services as soon as possible.

CELLULAR PHONES

Please turn off your cellular phones while you are in the classroom. When they ring, it can disrupt the class.

TAPE RECORDERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Several students are now taping classroom lectures in order to help them recall class material and to study. If you wish to tape lectures this is a permissible. I only request that you make me aware that you are taping lectures.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cases of cheating and plagiarism on any assignment or exam will be handled on a case by case basis in accordance with the policies of the UW-Stevens Point.

ASSESSMENT

Your class may participate in college, departmental, or institutional level learning assessments in any given semester. If the class is assessed, students will be informed of the process and given the option of not participating in the assessment. The UW Colleges assessment program enhances the quality and effectiveness of curriculum, programs, and services to our students because they are of primary importance for student learning. Learning assessments are conducted each semester in all disciplines for select courses offered by the UW-Colleges. The assessment results do not count towards your grade, but rather they are used to gather statistical information about student learning. The information derived from the analysis of the assessment data is used as guidance to your professors so that we can improve the effectiveness of our delivery of educational material in the classroom. If your class is chosen to participate in the UW Colleges assessment program this semester, I will provide you with additional information about which class activities will be incorporated into the assessment program.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We take our students' learning personally, and we take our students' rights seriously. You should, too. Awareness of your rights and responsibilities as a student is part of your educational experience.

Course Access

Access to CANVAS is restricted to registered students and their instructors. Therefore, you should **never** give out your course username/password to anyone, no matter how well intentioned. Even if you want to share your own coursework and/or information with a UW-Stevens Point advisor or tutor you must still obtain permission and an appropriate

guest login by emailing your instructor. We respect your privacy, and we ask that you respect the privacy of your classmates and instructors.

The materials in this course are protected by copyright, and students may only make copies of these materials for course-related tasks. The materials are not to be shared with others, or used for other purposes, without the expressed, written consent of the instructor. Materials that are drawn from other sources are used in compliance with the TEACH Act of 2002 and are covered by copyright held by the originator of the materials.

Student Conduct

Rules about student conduct are found in two chapters of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, which apply statewide to all UW campuses and students. These are commonly referred to as UWS 14 (academic disciplinary procedures) and UWS 17 (nonacademic disciplinary procedures).

Academic Integrity

Part of the value of the courses that you take through the University of Wisconsin Colleges lies in the standards of academic honesty and integrity maintained by our instructors. To avoid academic misconduct, it is important for you to understand how academic misconduct is defined, our expectations of you as a student, and your rights if you are involved in an allegation of academic misconduct. Academic integrity requires that any work a student submits for grading is an honest and accurate reflection of that student's own academic effort and that any sources used in creating the work are properly cited. Students can review the entire text of UWS 14 by clicking on this link ([Chapter UWS 14 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)). A student's submission of an essay, paper, or exam represents assurance that such work has been completed according to the guidelines found in UWS 14.

Nonacademic Conduct

Every person within the UW-Stevens Point community has the right to an academic environment that is free from threats, harassment, or other disruptions. The UW System has developed a set of regulations outlining the types of behavior that can be considered nonacademic misconduct and the disciplinary procedures to be followed when nonacademic misconduct occurs. Students can review the entire text of UWS 17 by clicking on this link ([Chapter UWS 17 \(Links to an external site.\)](#)).

Computing and Networking Usage Guidelines:

Access to computing and networking resources is a privilege normally extended to all UW-Stevens Point's students. Accompanying that privilege is an obligation to understand and abide by the responsibilities and regulations that govern the computing environment in the University of Wisconsin System. These guidelines reflect the general ethical principles of the University community and indicate what responsibilities are characteristic of the University computing environment.

Accommodation of Religious Beliefs

A student who has a conflict between an academic requirement and a religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement, providing the student notifies his or her instructor within the first three weeks of classes during the regular semester (or the first week of classes during the summer semester). At that time, the student must specify the specific days or dates on which they have conflicts between scheduled academic requirements (such as exams) and religious observances.

OTHER POLICIES

We shall adhere to all policies and schedules operative at UWSP and as published in the University Bulletin and other University publications.

COURSE EVALUATION

Practice Quizzes

There is a practice quiz associated with each topic that is covered in class. You need to take the quizzes to help prepare yourself for the major exams. The practice quizzes are not calculated into your final grade.

Scheduled Examinations:

You will have three exams including the final exam. Each exam has a value of 100 points for a value of 300 points towards your final grade. We will take our exams in class and the dates of scheduled exams will be announced two weeks prior to the day they are given.

Make-up Examinations:

Make-up examinations will be given only in the case of excused absences and must be taken before the next scheduled exam. Excused absences include such situations as participation in University sponsored events, illness, death in the family. However, there are also several other situations that occur in daily life that also may be considered on a case by case basis.

Video Reviews:

During the semester, we will be viewing several videos related to our course topics. You will be responsible to review 10 of these videos. Each of these reviews has a value of 15 points for a total of 150 points towards your final grade. Your video reviews must be submitted as a MS Word Document, *.docx **Your video reviews must have a minimum of 400 words to receive a passing grade.**

LAB ASSIGNMENTS

All of your lab assignments will be management oriented. You will be working with a specific hazard for each lab to understand how it is mitigated throughout the disaster cycle. There will be a total of fifteen labs. Each lab has a value of 20 points for a total of 300 points. Your labs must be submitted as an MS Word document, *.doc

CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADES AND POSTING OF GRADES

Your final grade will be calculated by the percentage of total points that you earn during the semester out of the total 450 points that are available. If alternative class assignments are given, they will be incorporated into your final average. All of your grades will be posted in the D2L Grade Book. The breakdown of the value of each component of your grade is given below.

Exam 1100 Points

Exam 2100 Points

Exam 3100 Points

Video Reviews.....150 Points

Labs.....300 points

Total Points Available... 750 Points

Your final grades will be determined by the distribution given below.

- A >93
- A- 90-92
- B+ 88-89
- B 84-87
- B- 80-83
- C+ 78-79
- C 74-77
- C- 70-73
- D+ 68-69
- D 64-67
- D- 60-63
- F < 60

Finding Your Grades

The scores you receive on each activity are always available to you. Check the Gradebook for your scores.