Natural Disasters
Fall 2020 Syllabus

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement or through email.

Course Information
Instructor Information
Instructor: **Lisa Siewert**
Office: **282A Wausau campus**
Virtual Office Hours: **Tuesday 9-10am; Thursday 1-2pm or by appointment (just email me to set up a time) Use the information below to access the virtual office hours:**
https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/6367047890?pwd=Z2xjZXRtWWIxclR6T0x4aFo2b1Zndz09
Meeting ID: **636 704 7890**
Passcode: **geology**
E-mail: **lsiewert@uwsp.edu** This is my preferred method of communication.

Course Information
Course Description: 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.
Credits: 4 credits
Prerequisite: none

Expected Instructor Response Times
- I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours please resend your email.
  - ***If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q&A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.
- I will attempt to reply to and assess student discussion posts within 48 hours of discussions closing.
- I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours, however longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Textbook & Course Materials
Required Text: There is not a required textbook for this course. All materials will be open educational resources.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe how the tectonic motion of Earth's lithosphere leads to geologic disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides, and tsunamis.
2. Explain how global atmospheric circulation and Earth's hydrologic cycle create weather-related disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts.
3. Analyze specific geologic risk factors that can be used to determine the probability of natural disasters occurring in a specific region.
4. Identify how geologic disasters impact our everyday lives

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- **Lab:** The lab activities will be conducted 100% online. They will utilize online programs like Google Earth, Google Maps, and Virtual Geology Labs. You will submit worksheets for your labs on Canvas.
- **Reading Quizzes**: Each unit has at least one reading "quiz", which is an untimed, multiple choice worksheet that covers the main topics in the learning resources for that lesson.
- **Discussions**: There are a handful of discussions. The discussions have two components: the initial post and the replies. Each component has a separate due date. The first due date is the date by which your initial post should be submitted. The initial post if your answer to the discussion prompt. The replies are your responses to me and your fellow students. It is recommended to respond to at least three other students.
- **Risk Assessments**: Risk assessments are project completed in several lessons and include conceptual and critical thinking questions from the entire lessons. These assignments are meant to be challenging and to encourage you to think more deeply about the material. You might need to be creative or think beyond the material you have previously encountered.

Topic Outline

Important Note: Refer to the Canvas course home page for pertinent information. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding Module. As tasks come due, they will appear in your "to do" list. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

Week 1	Lesson 1: Introduction to Disasters
Week 2	Lesson 2: Plate Tectonics
Week 3	
Week 4	Lesson 3: Rocks and Minerals
Week 5	Lesson 4: Earthquakes
Week 6	
Week 7	Lesson 5: Tsunami
Week 8	Lesson 6: Volcanoes
Week 9	
Week 10	Lesson 7: Mass Movements
Week 11	Lesson 8: Streams and Flooding
Week 12	Lesson 9: Hurricanes
Week 13	
Week 14	Lesson 10: Climate Change
Week 15	Lesson 11: Large Earth Impacts

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to Canvas
- read documents online
- view online videos
- participate in online discussions
- complete quizzes online
- participate in asynchronous online discussions

Course Structure

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system, Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the Canvas Login Page. If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the Manage Your Account page to do so.

Technology

Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357. Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas.

UWSP Technology Support

- Visit with a Student Technology Tutor
- Seek assistance from the IT Service Desk (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - o IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - o IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu

Canvas Support

Click on the help button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

Support Options	Explanations
Ask Your Instructor a Question Submit a question to your instructor	Use **Ask Your Instructor a Question** sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
Chat with Canvas Support (Student) Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!	**Chat**ting **with Canvas Support (Student)** will initiate a *text chat* with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
Contact Canvas Support via email Canvas support will email a response	**Contact**ing **Canvas Support via email** will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.

Contact Canvas Support via phone Find the phone number for your institution	Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.
Search the Canvas Guides Find answers to common questions	**Search**ing **the Canvas guides** connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for **Canvas video guides.**
Submit a Feature Idea Have an idea to improve Canvas?	If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this **Submit a Feature Idea** avenue.

All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, s/he may not be available immediately.

- Self-train on Canvas through the Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course

Grading Policies
Graded Course Activities
Click the **Assignments** link in Canvas to access assignment listing, categories and weights as applicable. Click the **Syllabus** link to see a chronological listing of assignments. Click the **Grades** link to see current grades.

Participation
Students are expected to participate in all online activities as listed on the course calendar.

Complete Assignments
All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Late Work Policy
Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of 10% loss in overall points for each day late.

Viewing Grades in Canvas
Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 3 days following the due date of an assignment. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Canvas home page under the link to this course.

Letter Grade Assignment
Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

A	94-100%	B	84-87%	C	74-77%	D	64-67%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	F	< 64%

B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%

Course Policies

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:
- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP Academic Calendar for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will only be assigned if 50% of the course assignments have been completed by the end of the semester. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within a semester after the incomplete was assigned.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the Disability and Assistive Technology Center

and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu.

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

(1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

    (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;

    (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;

    (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;

    (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;

    (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or

    (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

COVID-19 Guidelines

Face Coverings:

- At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using [this screening tool](#). If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
    - As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.