

Syllabus: FDSCI 201, Natural Disasters

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| Description | FDSCI 201 provides an interdisciplinary introduction to geologic hazards and disasters. Topics addressed include plate tectonics, world geography, earthquakes, volcanoes, mass wasting, floods, coastal hazards, and hurricanes--and their impacts on people, history, economics, art, civilization, engineering, and science. |
| Objective | FDSCI 201 is designed to prepare you for disasters and to understand the science behind them and the impacts of disasters on people, history, economics, art, civilization, engineering, and science. But most importantly, the goal of this course is to change the way you think and train you to think critically about scientific issues. After taking this course, you should be able to identify natural hazards and understand how, where, and why they formed; understand and evaluate news reports, magazine articles, books, and documentaries on related topics; make informed decisions on practical, political, and economic Earth-related issues; buy a home in a safe location; and gain a greater appreciation for the creations of our Father in Heaven. |
| Text | Course materials and web links will be provided in the I-Learn system online. No text purchase is required, although "Earth's Dynamic Systems" 10th edition is available from online vendors quite cheaply. |
| Expectations | Study the material to be covered <u>before</u> class; come prepared; attend all classes. Take quizzes and tests on time. Assume responsibility for instructions, whether written or spoken. Participate in class by asking and answering questions and being involved in discussions. Do your fair share in team assignments. Comply with all school policies, including honesty and the dress code. |
| Grading | Grades are based on assessment of student pre-class preparation, performance on assignments, and performance on unit and final assessments (exams) as described below. <i>Taking responsibility for completing assignments on time is part of your grade. Poor attendance will adversely affect your grades.</i> |
| Pre-Class Prep Quizzes | Online quizzes (on I-Learn) must be completed 30 minutes before the class period in which they are due (see the Class Schedule for these dates). You may take them 3 times only . You should not get help from another person. Due to the nature of the computer system, no makeups are possible . To allow for a possible emergency, the scores for two quizzes are dropped at the end of the semester. Online quizzes are worth 10 points each (a semester total of 160 points after 2 are dropped). Every time you take a quiz, it is your responsibility to check your grades in I-Learn to be sure your quiz score was recorded— unrecorded quizzes cannot be made up . |
| Discoveries | You will complete 7 homework exercises designed to help you discover concepts and features about the various natural hazards we study. You are expected to follow the instructions carefully and do detailed, thoughtful work. The Discoveries require use of Google Earth and access to websites on your own computer or in a computer lab on campus. |
| Critical Analysis: Case Studies | Each student will complete team exercises as assigned in the Class Schedule. These are designed to develop your ability to think critically, to analyse information and draw sound, logical conclusions based on facts and to present ideas orally and in writing. This kind of scientific literacy is vital in today's society as technical and scientific issues become increasingly important to you as a voter, consumer, citizen, and Church member. |
| Unit Exams | Assessments (exams) are designed to measure how well you understand and can apply the material you have studied. They are not a game of Trivial Pursuit, but are designed to assess comprehension and application of important concepts. Each is taken in the testing center on the dates listed in the class schedule. There are 4 exams and a comprehensive final. The exams are worth 100 points each (a semester total of 400 points). The comprehensive final exam is worth 200 points. |
| Late Work | Late assignments may be excused (unpenalized) if discussed in advance with Bro. Clayton and for legitimate reasons. If you are ill, contact Bro. Clayton before an assignment is due. Unexcused late assignments, tests, and worksheets will be penalized 20% off for the first 3 days, 50% for the next 5 days, and NO CREDIT will be given after 8 days. These rules are strictly adhered to. |
| Extra Credit | You may do one of the following for extra credit (20 points maximum): A) For 20 points, you may visit Yellowstone or Craters of the Moon and take your picture by a recognizable landmark (NOT at the entrance or visitors center!). Submit photo in I-Learn. B) For 10 points, you may watch the video at the Teton Flood Museum and turn in a page of good notes. Check with the museum for hours. |
| Field Trip | A day-long field trip is required for this course. It is worth 50 points. Locations will be announced. Make whatever arrangements you must to attend. NO significant hiking is involved. If you cannot go on the field trip, a make-up assignment will be available. |

Total Points possible: Letter grades are assigned as follows:

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| Online Quizzes 160 pts | 94-100% = A | 67-69% = D+ | 70-72% = C- |
| Case Studies 140 pts | 90-93% = A- | 80-82% = B- | 63-66% = D |
| Field Trip 50 pts | 87-89% = B+ | 77-79% = C+ | 60-62% = D- |
| Geol Theater (2) 50 pts | 83-86% = B | 73-76% = C | <60% = F |
| Unit Exams 400 pts | | | |
| Discovery 235 pts | | | |
| Final Exam 200 pts | | | |
| Semester Total: 1235 pt | * Grades will be posted regularly in I-Learn * | | |
| | # Poor class attendance will adversely affect your grade # | | |

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be discussed in class.

Preventing Sexual Harassment: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds, including Federal loans and grants. Title IX also covers student-to-student sexual harassment. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based

Students With Disabilities: Brigham Young University-Idaho is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office at 496-1158. Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by this office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy procedures.