NATURAL DISASTERS — GEOLOGY 303

Course Outline, Fall 2004, TuTh 0800-0915 p.m.

Dr. Vic Camp:	Office -- GMCS-228k email -- vcamp@geology.sdsu.edu
Office Hours:	Room -- GMCS-228k MWF 1000-1050, or by appointment

Recommend Text:	Abbott (2004), *Natural Disasters* W. C. Brown Publishers
Required Readings:	Camp (2004), "Natural Disasters Readings," a compilation of historic disasters and related material. SDSU Bookstore.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a general education course for upper-division students. 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, severe forms of weather, 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 exam, worth 100 points each, and a research paper, worth 40 points. Guidelines for the paper will be handed out in class. The due date for the paper is ***November 2***; no late papers will be accepted. Your lowest exam score (but not the final) will be dropped, and your final grade will thus be based on 240 total points. There are ***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 percent scale:

A = 100 - 92 %	C+ = 79.99 - 78%	F < 50%
A- = 91.99 - 90%	C = 77.99 - 70%	
	C- = 69.99 - 65%	
B+ = 89.99 - 88%	D+ = 64.99 - 63%	
B = 87.99 - 82 %	D = 62.99 - 55%	
B- = 81.99 - 80%	D- = 54.99 - 50%	

PRELIMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE

(*Changes may be made to this schedule as necessary*)

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	RELEVANT CHAPTERS in ABBOTT (2004)
Aug. 31 / Sept. 2	Introduction / Earth's Development / Energy Sources for Disasters / Geologic Time	Chapter 1
Sept. 7/9	Earth Materials / Plate Tectonics	Chapters 1 and 2
Sept. 14	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2
Sept. 16	**EXAM 1 (use the large Red Pascore Scantron F-288)** ***note: for the remaining exams, use the small red Scantron F-289***	
Sept. 21/23	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Sept. 28/30	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Oct. 5/7	Earthquakes	Chapters 3 and 4
Oct. 12/14	Landslides	Chapter 8
Oct. 19/21	**EXAM 2 (Oct. 21)** / Extinctions	Chapters 14 and 15
Oct. 26/28	Extinctions/Meteorite Impacts	Chapters 14 and 15
Nov. 2/4	Volcanoes **(WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE – Nov. 2)**	Chapters 6 and 7
Nov. 9/11	Volcanoes	Chapters 6 and 7
Nov. 16/18	Volcanoes	Chapters 6 and 7
Nov. 23	**EXAM 3**	
Nov. 25	**TURKEY DAY! – No classes**	
Nov. 30 / Dec.2	Severe Weather	Chapter 10
Dec. 7/9	Severe Weather / Floods	Chapters 10 and 12

Dec. 14 (*Tuesday: 0800-1000*) **FINAL EXAM**

Note: the final will be about 60-70% comprehensive, with the remainder covering severe weather and floods. ***The final exam MUST be taken at the scheduled time - no exceptions***