

# GEOL 20: Natural Disasters, Section 4410

## Spring 2019 Course Syllabus

### Instructor Contact Information

Rebecca Perloth

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Phone: (707) 527-4639

Office Hours: held in Lark 2021

Monday: 10:30-12, 2-3 and 6-6:30; Wednesday: 10:30-11:30 and 4:30-5; Hours available by appointment (call or email to set up)

I typically respond to email and voicemail messages within 24 hours (may be longer on weekends or holidays).

### Course Description

This course provides a survey of Earth's processes that have direct, often sudden and violent impact on societies and civilizations. Topics will focus on causes, effects and mitigation efforts for hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, erosion and landslides, bolide impacts and fire.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Apply scientific techniques to answer questions related to the occurrence of natural hazards.
2. Critically analyze information about hazards to assess cause and effect, susceptibility and risk.
3. Explain the complex interplay between humans and the environment.

### Important Dates

Meeting Time	Mondays 3-5 pm
Meeting Location	Lark 2042
Class Begins	January 14
Day Class Ends	May 13
Last Day to Add w\o instructor's approval	January 20
Last Day to Drop with refund	January 27
Last Day to Add with instructor's approval	February 3
Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol	February 3
Last Day to Opt for Pass/No Pass	February 24
Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol	April 21
Final Exam	TBD

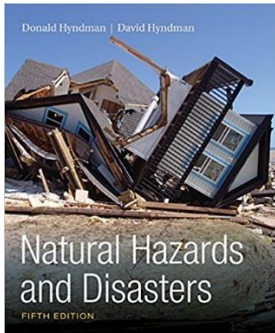
### Course Web Site

Students will use the Canvas course web site to find resources, access readings, keep up with what's going on in class (overview and review sections), access homework assignments and view grades. Canvas is accessible via your SRJC

Student Portal (your cubby), your online class schedule or the SRJC website. You do not need to do anything special to register on the site - since you're enrolled, you automatically have a profile on Canvas.

## Textbook

Natural Hazards and Disasters, by Hyndman and Hyndman, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. You may use the print or online version. You can locate and order textbooks online via the [SRJC Bookstore](#) (links to external site) or any site of your choosing. You may opt for an older edition of the text, and that's OK, but you'll be responsible for making sure you're reading the correct pages/chapters. You are not required to bring the textbook to class unless specified by instructor.



ISBN-13: 978-1305581692

ISBN-10: 1305581695

## Dropping the Class

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact the instructor to avoid being dropped from the class.

## Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first class meeting may be dropped by the instructor. Please let the instructor know if you will not be able to attend class the first week. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester in order to monitor progress.

## Evaluation and Grading

You will be evaluated by exams, a disaster report, a written journal abstract, participation in an online discussion board, and a variety of in-class and homework assignments. Grades will be distributed as follows:

**Exams:** 20% of your final grade

There will be two equally weighted exams during the semester. Questions are designed to test your understanding of the subject matter and your ability to assimilate and incorporate information. Exams will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer format questions. Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled times; exceptions may be granted only for legitimate excuses or for previously existing conflicts, but this is at the discretion of the instructor, and arrangements must be made in advance in these instances.

Important notes on exams:

- You must provide your own #2 pencil and a 100 question Scantron form (form 882) for each exam.
- If you leave the room during an exam, I will assume you're finished, and you will not be allowed to return and keep working.
- You will not be allowed to start an exam once another student has finished and left the room.

**Homework and In-Class Assignments:** 40% of your final grade

You will complete various assignments, including discussions, written assignments, and problem solving exercises. Assignments may be individual or group based. These are designed to help you assimilate the topics currently being discussed in class, and to ensure that you're following along with your textbook and other course readings. These will be assigned TBA.

**Discussion Board Participation:** 15% of your final grade

Each week, you will contribute to a class discussion on the Canvas Discussion Board. You are required to submit an initial comment based on the assigned readings (you may respond to the prompt provided or provide your thoughts about the reading material). After we meet, you will respond to at least two or your classmates' comments to keep the discussion going. One or two words is not considered an adequate comment or response. Be thoughtful and thorough with your initial comments, and be respectful and considerate of your classmates in your responses to their posts.

**Journal Abstract:** 15% of your final grade

Detailed information about this project is provided in the Assignments tab, Journal Abstract Project.

**Disaster Report:** 10% of your final grade

Detailed information about this project is provided in the Assignments tab, Disaster Report.

## Grades

Click the "Grades" link in Canvas to keep track of your grades. As grades come in, I will post them, along with comments as needed in the Canvas gradebook.

Grades will be assigned as follows. Note: D and F are not passing grades. If taking Pass/No Pass you need to earn at least 70% of the total class points in order to pass. The deadline to opt for Pass/No Pass is stated in the Important Dates section above.

A: 90+%                      B: 80-89%                      C: 70-79%                      D: 60-69%                      F: less than 60%

## Standards of Conduct

Students who register in SRJC classes are required to abide by the SRJC Student Conduct Standards. Violation of the Standards is basis for referral to the Vice President of Student Services or dismissal from class or from the College. See the [Rights and Responsibilities](#) of SRJC students.

Copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. Students are encouraged to share information and ideas, but not their work.

[What is Plagiarism?](#)

[Rights and Responsibilities Page at SRJC](#)

## Suggestions for Success

- Devote the time necessary to succeed in this course – do the assigned reading, review and recopy lecture notes, take advantage of online and textbook resources, study for exams, complete ALL required assignments. **Everyone** can succeed in this class, so set high expectations and then work hard to meet them.
- Stay on top of the material the entire semester. You may be expected to spend up to 9 hours per week outside of class to complete the required reading, studying, and assignments.

- Pay attention. Limited talking is acceptable, but only if it pertains to the class. Talking about other subjects, such as your weekend plans or material from other classes, can be distracting to your instructor AND your classmates. Please refrain from disturbing you classmates and your instructor, or you may be asked to leave.
- Do not ever hesitate to ask questions. Class participation is encouraged. Get to know your instructor and your classmates. Form study groups to help you prepare for exams and projects, and visit your instructor during office hours.
- Please leave cell phones outside the classroom or be sure to turn them off during class.

## **Special Needs**

Every effort is made to conform to accessibility standards for all instructor-created materials. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if they find that they cannot access any course materials. If you need disability related accommodations for this class, please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. If you have not received authorization from DRD, please contact them directly. DRD is located in Analy Village on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.

## **Safety/Emergency information**

Please note the location of the Emergency Preparedness Handbook in the classroom. In an emergency situation, immediately contact Campus Police at 527-1000 or dial 1000 from any campus phone. In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation from the building, please leave the class immediately, but calmly. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me during my office hours as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan.

## Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Text Reading Assignment
1	1/14	Introduction: Hazards and Humans	Chapter 1
2	1/21	NO CLASS - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY	
3	1/28	The Earth and The Rock Cycle	
4	2/4	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2
5	2/11	Earthquakes: Locating and Measuring	Chapter 3
6	2/18	NO CLASS - PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY	
7	2/25	Earthquakes: Forecasting, Mitigation, Hazards	Chapter 3 & 4
8	3/4	Tsunamis: Causes and Hazards	Chapter 5
9	3/11	Exam 1	
	3/18-3/22	SPRING BREAK	
10	3/25	Volcanoes: Landforms and Geologic Setting	Chapter 6
11	4/1	Volcanoes: Hazards, Mitigation	Chapter 7
12	4/8	Landslides: Triggers, Hazards and Mitigation	Chapter 8
13	4/15	Streams and Flooding: Processes and Mitigation	Chapter 13 & 14
14	4/22	Beaches and Coastal Processes	Chapter 15
15	4/29	Hurricanes: Formation, Damage and Mitigation	Chapter 16
16	5/6	Wildfires: Triggers, Effects, and Mitigation	Chapter 17
17	5/13	Impact Events: Types, Evidence, and Effects	Chapter 18
18	TBD	Exam 2	