

EENS 6050**Natural Disasters****Fall 2016****Instructor:** Dr. Stephen A. Nelson

Office Hours - by appointment, Room 208, Blessey Hall

e-mail - snelson@tulane.edu Office Phone 862-3194**Required Textbook:** *Natural Hazards, Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes* 4th Edition by E.A. Keller and D.E. DeVecchioAvailable in Tulane Bookstore and as an e-book from [Coursesmart](#)**Course Grading:** Your grade in this course will be determined on the following percentage distribution:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Homework	20%
Disaster Summary	15%
Term Paper	15%

Web Site:

Further course materials, including a copy of this syllabus, all homework assignments, lecture notes, disaster summary information, announcements from the instructor, and useful internet links can be found on the Internet at: http://www.tulane.edu/~sanelson/Natural_Disasters/. Be sure to check this web page regularly throughout the course for important announcements and updates. In addition, slides from the lectures will be posted onCanvas, but only after the lecture has been finished in class.

Homework and Exams:

The midterm and final exams will be mostly objective in nature with questions coming from the reading material, lectures, and homework assignments. Exam questions for those enrolled in EENS-6050 may differ from those on the EENS-3050 exams. **No make-up exams will be given.** The Final Exam **will be cumulative.** Homework assignments consist of exercises designed to help the student gain practical experience in examining information about the occurrence and effects of natural disasters. **All homework answers should be typewritten.** Due dates are listed in the schedule below. All homework is due by the end of the class period on the due date. Due dates and times are firm. Late assignments will be subject to a 50% penalty and will not be graded in detail. Turning in homework by email is discouraged because it requires extra work for the instructor.

Disaster Summary:

Students will be required to find information on major natural disasters that occur during the time period of the course. Information for this summary will be found in newspapers, magazines, and on the internet. On the last day of class, each student will turn in a short summary of the 10 worst disasters that occurred during the course. This summary should include information on the type, details, effects, death/injury toll, and economic impact of each of these 10 disasters. Further information on the disaster summary can be found [HERE](#).

Term Paper

A 10 to 15 page term paper will be turned in on the last day of class (December 8, 2016). The term paper can be on any topic related to Natural Disasters, but **the topic must be approved by the instructor before September 27, 2016**. The term paper must show an advanced knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic. The student may turn in a **near final** version of the term paper by November 22, 2016 for the instructor to review and critique. The instructor will then return the reviewed paper, along with his comments so that the student has time to make the necessary revisions prior to the due date. All students are strongly encouraged to take this approach. (Note that if you are seeking to fulfil the writing intensive component, the term paper must be at least 20 pages and you **must** turn in a near final version on November 22 for the instructor's review and critique).

Honor Code:

All students are expected to follow the Tulane Honor Code. If you are unfamiliar with the Honor Code or have any questions about it, get a copy of the Honor Code from your Dean's office or view it at: <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>. In short, the Honor Code states that all work turned in for credit must be **your own work in your own words**, unless clear and explicit acknowledgement of the sources of the work is given. This does not mean that collaboration on assignments is discouraged. You may collaborate, just make sure that the work you turn in is in your own words, and not just a copy of the work of your collaborators.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. The student will gain an understanding of the geologic and atmospheric processes responsible for natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, drought, and asteroid impacts.
2. The student will gain an understanding of the areas susceptible to natural hazards and the frequency which these hazards become natural disasters.
3. The student will gain an understanding of practical ways to minimize the effects of natural disasters and mitigate the effects in areas where they are likely to occur.

Schedule of Lectures and Assignments		
Date	Topic	Readings
Aug. 30	Intro and Natural Disasters & Assessing Hazards and Risk Homework Assigned: I. Disaster Info on the Internet	Preface Ch. 1
Sept. 1	Natural Disasters & Assessing Hazards and Risk Earth Structure, Materials, Systems, and Cycles	Ch. 1 & 2.
Sept. 6	Earth Structure, Materials, Systems, and Cycles	Ch. 2
Sept. 8	Earthquakes: Causes and Measurements Homework I Due Homework Assigned: II. Earthquake Exercises	Ch. 3
Sept. 13	Earthquake Hazards and Risks	Ch 3

Sept. 15	Earthquake Prediction, Mitigation, and Control	Ch. 3
Sept. 20	Earthquake Case Histories Homework II Due	Ch. 3
Sept. 22	Tsunami	Ch. 4
Sept. 27	Tsunami Homework Assigned: III. Volcanological Exercises	Ch. 4
Sept. 29	Volcanoes, Magma, and Volcanic Eruptions	Ch. 5
Oct. 4	Volcanic Landforms, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics	Ch. 5
Oct. 6	Volcanic Hazards, Beneficial Aspects, and Predicting Eruptions	Ch. 5
Oct. 11	Volcanic Case Histories Homework III Due	Ch. 5
Oct. 13	FALL BREAK	
Oct. 18	Midterm Exam	
Oct. 20	River Systems & Causes of Flooding Homework Assigned: IV Flooding Exercises	Ch. 6
Oct. 25	River Flooding	Ch. 6
Oct. 27	Flooding Hazards, Prediction and Human Intervention	Ch. 6
Nov. 1	Flooding Case History Homework IV Due	Ch. 6
Nov. 3	Mass Movements and Mass Movement Process Homework Assigned: V. Mass Movement Exercises	Ch. 7
Nov. 8	Slope Stability, Triggering Events, Mass Movement Hazards	Ch. 7
Nov. 10	Subsidence: Dissolution & Human Related Causes	Ch. 8
Nov. 15	The Ocean-Atmosphere System Homework V Due	Ch. 9 & 12
Nov. 17	Thunderstorms & Tornadoes Homework Assigned: VI Weather Exercises	Ch. 9
Nov. 22	Tropical Cyclones	Ch. 10

Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Holiday - no class	
Nov. 29	Tropical Cyclones	Ch. 10
Dec. 1	Tropical Cyclones Homework VI Due	Ch. 10
Dec. 6	Coastal Hazards	Ch. 11
Dec. 8	Meteorites & Impacting Events Disaster Summary Due	Ch.14
Dec. 16	FINAL EXAMINATION 8:00 AM - Noon	

[Obtain a PDF version of the Syllabus](#)

[Return to EENS 6050 Homepage](#)