



**School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

**GEOG 111-01
Natural Hazards
Semester/Year, 2009W**

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/calendar/2007/web/geog.html#GEOG111>

Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only.
It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Catherine Griffiths		
(b)	Office Hours:	Wednesday and Fridays 12:30 to 1:20		
(c)	Location:	Wed: Paul 233, Fri: Ewing 103		
(d)	Phone:	370-3370	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	Griffiths@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

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

1. Describe the natural environmental processes that underlie natural hazards.
2. Explain how human development and planning influence natural hazard risk.
3. Use basic risk assessment and mitigation tools related to natural hazards.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Required: Keller, E.A., R.H. Blodgett and J.J. Clague, 2008. *Natural Hazards, Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 421 pp.
- This is available in the book store, and there also will be a reserve copy in the library.
 - An exercise CD called "Hazard City" is included with the book. Make sure you get it.
- (b) Required: Geography 111: Natural Hazards Lab and Course Materials, available in the bookstore

4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

- **Lectures:** This class has two two-hour blocks on Wednesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays, and some Fridays, are for lectures, which will provide the theory you need to understand the assignments and pass the tests. Attendance is essential. I will post basic lecture outlines

on the course web site on Desire2Learn. These outlines are no substitute for coming to class!

- **Readings** are an essential part of this course – they provide depth and context that are indispensable to your understanding of the course material, and they will be tested. Specific reading assignments are detailed below; these may be modified as the term goes on.
- **Assignments:** A variety of assignments must be completed for this class. Due dates will be given on the assignment handouts. I reserve the right to impose a 10% per day penalty on late assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted after I have returned them marked.

There are four lab exercises. These are found in the course lab materials packet, purchased in the bookstore. Time to work on these will be provided on some Fridays. You may work with other students, but each student must write their own individual answers unless instructed otherwise. Attendance of labs is very important. No credit will be given for wrong answers or missed activities due to unexcused absence from lab.

You will be expected to attend a library skills workshop and complete a library-skills exercise on the second Friday of term. This will help you with your poster project (see below).

One Friday will be devoted to a video and discussion on climate change. You must hand in notes on the video at the end of class.

- **Poster Presentation:** Each student will be responsible for researching and assembling a hazard-related poster, to be presented in class. Your grade will be based in part on your participation in the poster sessions. Details in the lab materials packet. Failure to present a completed poster on the appointed day will result in a mark of zero for the assignment.
- **Field Trips:** There are two mandatory field trips on Wednesday and Friday, January 28 and 30 (Pacific Geoscience Centre in Sidney) and Friday, March 18 (Provincial Emergency Program headquarters in Saanichton), each running from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Details to come. You must attend and take notes, to be handed in at the end of the trip.
- **Exams:** There will be a midterm and a final exam. The format for these will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions. They mainly will emphasize the lecture material, though lab material will also be drawn upon. The final exam will be cumulative.
- **Illness, etc.:** If you miss a lab or exam due to illness or some other serious reason, I must ask you to provide a doctor's note or other documentation to support your story. Otherwise, a mark of zero for the missed assignment will be given. Exams and field trips are hard to reschedule, so try not to miss them unless you are too sick to perform at a normal level.

Students who miss an exam for a valid reason must contact me within 24 hours with an explanation. In such cases, one makeup exam time will be scheduled, and all students needing it will be expected to attend.

- **COURSE SCHEDULE** (Subject to change at instructor's discretion):

Week of	Wednesday	Friday
Jan. 5	Course Intro	Lab 1: Topographic Maps
	Reading: <i>TBA</i>	
Jan. 12	Hazard Systems: Natural and Human	Library Workshop and Exercise
	Reading: <i>Ch. 1</i>	<i>Go to room LMC 136.</i>

Jan. 19	Earthquakes <i>Reading: Ch. 2</i>	Lab 2: Earthquakes
Jan. 26	Pacific Geoscience Centre Field Trip (both Wed and Fri) <i>Details TBA</i>	Tsunamis <i>Reading: pp. 259-267</i>
Feb. 2	Volcanoes <i>Reading: Ch. 3</i>	Landslides <i>Reading: Ch. 4</i>
Feb. 9	Landslide video / Review for midterm	Midterm Exam
Feb. 16	Poster Session #1	No class (reading break)
Feb. 23	Avalanches <i>Reading: Ch. 5</i>	Lab 3: Landslides
Mar. 2	Floods <i>Reading: Ch. 7</i>	Lab 4: Floods
Mar. 9	Subsidence and Coastal Erosion <i>Reading: Ch. 6, 9 (except hurricanes)</i>	Poster Session #2
Mar. 16	Hurricanes and tornadoes <i>Reading: Ch. 8, Ch. 9 (hurricanes only)</i>	PEP Field Trip <i>Details TBA</i>
Mar. 23	Climate Change <i>Reading: Ch. 11</i>	Climate Change Case Study
Mar. 30	Drought and Fire <i>Reading: pp.239, 241, Ch. 10</i>	Impacts and Extinctions <i>Reading: Ch. 12</i>
Apr. 6	Review for final exam	No Class Easter Weekend
Exam Week	Final Exam	

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

(a)	Labs	20% (5% each)
(b)	Library Exercises	4%
(c)	Video / Field Trip Notes	6% (2% each)
(b)	Poster Presentation	15%
(c)	Midterm exam	20%
(d)	Final exam	35%

6. Grading System

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Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3^d course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED