AHS 106 – Natural Hazards & Human Society Spring 2017

Class Time/Location: 106-01: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am–12:15pm, Wick Science Building 116
106-02: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00pm–3:15pm, Wick Science Building 116

Instructor	Office #	Office Hours
Dr. Tony Hansen	WSB 148	MF 11-12, 2-4; TR 9-11; W 2-4
Dr. Alan Srock	WSB 153	MF 10-11; MWF 12-1
Ms. Rachel Humphrey	WSB 160	MW 12-12:50; W 10-11:15; TR 12-1:50, 3:30-4:15
Dr. Kate Pound (email liaison)	WSB 155	M 1:30-3:30; R 10-11; F 1:30-3

All of us are also available whenever our office doors are open.

Teaching Assistants: TBA
AHS Office Manager: Christy Berndt, WSB 129

Contacting Us: Because this is a team-taught class, dealing with the flood of emails we get becomes difficult. As such, we've created an email account that we'll be using specifically for this class. All emails to us should be sent to AHS106@stcloudstate.edu. The emails will be managed by Professor Pound. If you have a question about class logistics, LearnSmart, PollEverywhere, grades, or need to miss a class due to a University-sanctioned event, or anything else, you **must** use this email account to contact us.

Required: 1. *Natural Disasters*, 10th Ed., 2016, Patrick L. Abbott, McGraw-Hill, with *Connect* included
1a. PollEverywhere – bundled with book
You can buy this bundle from the SCSU bookstore OR in two components online. The textbook is an online access code (so you'll have access to the e-book). You can order a print version of the text in loose-leaf format for $15 direct from McGraw-Hill. You can also get a PollEverywhere code separately; however, you'll still need online access to the book's resources. We'll discuss more about all of this in class.

Course Philosophy & Context: This course is designed to fulfill SCSU Goal Areas 3 and 10. These goals include the following objectives:

- Explain the basic structure and function of various ecosystems and human adaptive strategies within them
- Discern patterns of relationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems
- Describe the human institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, and religious) that deal with environmental and natural resource challenges
- Analyze environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems and institutions
- Propose/assess alternative solutions to environmental problems including issues involving sustainability
- Demonstrate a knowledge of concepts, principles, and theories in the physical and natural sciences
- Formulate research questions and testable hypotheses, analyze and interpret data, draw inferences and conclusions, and identify further questions for investigation
- Demonstrate awareness of the interdependent relationships of basic science, applied science, mathematics, and technology
- Recognize the human nature of the scientific enterprise, including the importance of curiosity, creativity, and imagination; the dual nature of scientific knowledge as changeable and durable; and the impact of a scientist's personal identity on the scientific process

- Evaluate societal issues from a science perspective, question the evidence presented, and make informed judgments about these issues

COURSE STRUCTURE

In this course, we will study a series of natural hazards. For each, the scientific basis for the natural hazard is presented, together with tools and technology used by scientists and the community to study and evaluate the risk of the hazard. Both instructors and students analyze hazards, evaluate human risks, and propose possible solutions to adapt human society and institutions to deal with these natural processes. To do this, students will be building their knowledge of geology, hydrology, and meteorology, as well as their understanding of the socio-cultural context within which natural disasters take place.

There will be assignments on the assigned chapters in the textbook that you will complete before attending class on that topic. However, some material in the textbook will **NOT** be covered in class, and some material presented in class is **NOT** covered in the textbook. The PowerPoint presentations from the lectures will be posted after class on D2L. It is important, however, that you take notes – many of the key details are not on the slides. Our role as instructors is to make the material you are reading meaningful, clarify questions you may have, and most importantly to expand on what is covered in the text, and show you how it can be applied in everyday life here and around the globe.

Grading: The grading scheme set up for this course gives everyone the opportunity to get an A. Your final grade will be assigned using the table below.

A+	99-100%	B+	83-86%	C+	71-74%	D+	59-62%	F	≤ 50%
A	91-98%	B	79-82%	C	67-70%	D	55-58%		
A-	87-90%	B-	75-78%	C-	63-66%	D-	51-54%		

The percentage will be calculated for each group of points you will earn using the percentage weights shown this table:

LearnSmart Assignments	20%
In-Class Questions	20%
Homework Assignments	15%
2 Exams (15% each)	30%
Cumulative Final Exam	15%

LearnSmart Assignments: These assignments are completed online using the *Connect* feature that uses the online access code you purchase. Online LearnSmart assignments will make up 20% of your course grade. The due dates for these assignments are provided in the class schedule. These assignments are designed to help you to process the textbook material in an efficient way. Use the link provided in D2L to access LearnSmart and the associated assignments. There are unlimited attempts on the questions, so there is no reason for you to get anything less than 100%. These are ***always due at 11:00am*** **on the day listed on the schedule**. If you submit them later than 11:00 am (even one second!) we do not get your grade. We will drop one LearnSmart assignment from your grade.

In-Class Group and Individual Assignments/Questions: Each class meeting there be some combination of group or individual questions or activities about the material we are covering. These will be conducted using PollEverywhere (you will get instructions one the use of PollEverywhere in the second class), or turned in on paper supplied to you. If they are completed as a group on paper, you must follow instructor directions (we usually require that there be between 2 and 3 people per group); each person must clearly write his/her own name on answer sheets or cards for the in-class questions or activities. The paper sheets must be handed in immediately upon completion of the activity. Adding the name of a person who is not in class is considered a failure of academic integrity – in other words, **cheating.** If you cheat, all the students whose names are on the group sheet will receive a "0", as will the person absent. Cheating will be reported to Student Life, following the SCSU policy on academic integrity (http://www.stcloudstate.edu/policies/categories/documents/Academic_Integrity_Procedure.pdf). We will drop grades for three class days of questions.This accommodates absences due to vehicle or medical issues, or other family emergencies. The in-class assignments/questions constitute 20% of your course grade. More importantly, these questions – or very similar questions – will be used on the exams.

Homework (out-of-class) Assignments: A total of seven homework assignments will be given for each major topic of the course. These will vary in structure and nature. These assignments will form 15% of your overall grade. They may be assessed by a quiz or may require turning in a written assignment to D2L. All of these assignments will be turned in via D2L, either as D2L quizzes or as 'assignments'. They must be turned in on or before the date they are due. Late homework assignments are not accepted.

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. Two of these exams are scheduled during normal class time (see schedule). These two exams will cover the material from the period since the previous exam. The third exam is scheduled during finals week (section 01 on Tuesday May 2nd 9:55 am – 12:10 pm; section 02 on Tuesday May 2nd, 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm), and will cover material from the entire semester, though it will be weighted toward the untested material at the end of the semester. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. They will cover material presented from the textbook, homework assignments, and lecture. We will be using "Scratch-Off Sheets" for the exams; these will be explained and demonstrated in class prior to the first exam. You must take all the exams. There are no 'make-up exams' or 'pre-exams.' Cheating is not tolerated in any form. If you cheat, your exam will be taken away, you will be assigned a grade of "0", and reported to Student Life. See also our additional guidelines on class expectations on the following page.

Extra Credit: There are no extra credit opportunities for this class.

Use of D2L: Course information, homework, reminders, and lecture slides are all posted on the class D2L Brightspace site. To log on to the D2L site you will need to use your StarID. If you need to activate your StarID, go to https://starid.mnscu.edu, click on "Activate StarID" and follow instructions. There is a delay between activating your ID and being able to access D2L, so don't procrastinate activating your ID.

How to do well in this class:

1. Come to class. TAKE NOTES AND PARTICIPATE! Brain research shows that these are essential for learning and understanding.
2. Do the in-class exercises – these will be very similar to exam questions and are an easy source of points.
3. Do all of the LearnSmart assignments while you read the textbook—you will be prepared for class and LearnSmart will help you focus on the most important material in the textbook. It is easy to get 100% scores and this is 20% of the course grade.

4. Do the homework assignments—forgetting these is a quick way to drop your grade. Do them EARLY ENOUGH to get help if needed.
5. Don't just write down what's on the PowerPoint slides; we will post those after class. Make sure you take notes on the content said in class beyond the slides as well!
6. Ask the instructors or teaching assistants if you have questions about the content – we will be very happy to help you.

POLICIES

Cheating and Plagiarism: Neither Cheating nor Plagiarism will be tolerated in any form, and will be dealt with according to SCSU guidelines. ***Never, ever copy someone's lab, or hand in a class exercise card on behalf of someone who is absent from class.***

What we expect from you: Respect the other students in the class as well as the instructors.

1. Be on time for class.
2. Do not pack-up or leave before we have told you that class has ended. Late arrivals and early departures disturb other students and the professors.
3. Please do not chat with people when the instructors are talking (unless we have told you to discuss something). The acoustics in the auditorium amplify the noise.
4. Turn cell phones to silent for the class period and put them away (out of sight), unless we tell you specifically to use them for PollEverywhere.
5. You may use computers to take notes. You may not use computers to check social media, watch videos, or anything else inappropriate in a classroom.
6. If you are causing a distraction to other students with your phone or computer you will first be asked turn off and stow the device. If the behavior continues you will be asked to leave the classroom.
7. During exams we have the following expectations:
    - All electronic devices, notes, and textbooks will be put completely away prior to the start of the exam
    - No talking to anyone once the exams are handed out
    - No looking at other students exam papers/answer cards
    - No working as a group / sharing answers with other students
    - No using technology to obtain answers
    - No moving around in the lecture room once the exam has started
    - Instructor guidelines for distribution of exams are followed