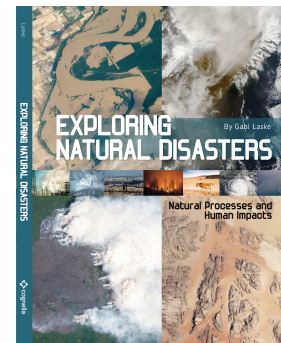


Fall 2018



Course Book

Description:

This course gives an introduction to environmental perils and their impact on everyday life. We explore how geological processes such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions work and how they change our environment. We explore the mechanisms of meteorological processes and the conditions under which extreme weather such as major storms, tornadoes and hurricanes form. We cannot prevent these conditions but we can learn how to monitor them and take precautionary measures. The discussion of extreme weather also includes the causes and consequences of floods, droughts and the conditions that lead to devastating wildfires. Global climate changes also have a large impact on the biosphere. These can be short-term events such as El Niño, or long-term such as major ice ages. We discuss causes of mass extinctions throughout Earth's history. Finally, we explore the involvement of human activity in the cause and prevention of natural disasters.

Class Website, lecture schedule and lecture notes:

<http://igppweb.ucsd.edu/~gabi/sio15>

The class website provides: lecture schedule and material, announcements, handouts for in-class note-taking. We also provide links to self-test quizzes and short videos. Midterms and the final exam are based on lecture notes, web material, homeworks, field trips and pop quizzes. In-class polling may be done through polleverywhere.com.

Text Book:

"Exploring Natural Disasters: Natural Processes and Human Impacts" by Gabi Laske (preliminary edition). The course material presented on the class website follows the book, while classroom lectures will concentrate on recent events. The course book should be considered mandatory and is particularly helpful for freshmen and non-native English speaking students but also for students who are looking for informative reading.

Lectures:

Lectures are held by Prof. Gabi Laske
Galbraith Hall 242, MWF 3:00 - 3:50pm

Office hours:

Tue 1:00 - 1:50pm, GH 364, starting Oct 2



Contact Information:

Gabi Laske (858) 534-8774, glaske@ucsd.edu

Email is the best way to communicate. Please add "SIO15" to your subject lines, using your UCSD email account and sign with your full name.

Discussion Sessions:

Optional weekly discussion sessions on to discuss material and homework with TAs:
Wed 5:00-5:50pm and/or Thu 5:00-5:50pm, York 3030 (starting Oct 3)
TAs TBD

Grading and tests:

Grades are based on weekly homeworks, midterm 1, midterm 2, the final exam and pop quizzes. No late homework will be accepted. Homeworks and tests in violation of UCSD policy on academic integrity will receive 0 points. Hand-written 8.5x11" note sheets will be allowed in the exams (1 for the midterms, 2 for the final). The grade scale is posted on the class website.

Pop quizzes:

Open-notes pop-quizzes will be given randomly during lectures. A fully correct answer will give 1% credit that is added to the cumulative final grade. Pop quiz credits can only be earned when physically attending the lectures. See class website for details.

Field Trips:

There will be a field trip to the SIO Beach and 2 self-guided tours to the Birch Aquarium in late October and November. Please check the class website for info. These three trips will make 3 of the MANDATORY homework sets.

Submit your personal experience:

Natural disasters may have affected many of us. You are encouraged to discuss these in the weekly discussion sessions. In addition, you can submit stories and photos to the course website (see class website for details).