

Natural Hazards, Climate, & Society

EVR 4112

T/R 9:30 – 10:50 AM



This course introduces the interaction between society and natural hazards with special consideration to perceptions of risk, vulnerability, preparedness, and recovery. We will introduce key concepts associated with hazards to provide a theoretical background and to gain a greater understanding of disaster management. Additionally, we will explore climate change and uncover its role as related to the magnitude and frequency of certain hazards. While we will introduce the physical science of hazards, our focus will center around how people and institutions perceive and respond to those hazards. In doing so, we will familiarize ourselves with how spatial inequality manifests with respect to risk shared across a community as well as hazard potential. Case studies from around the world will provide context and an opportunity to critique and learn from real situations.

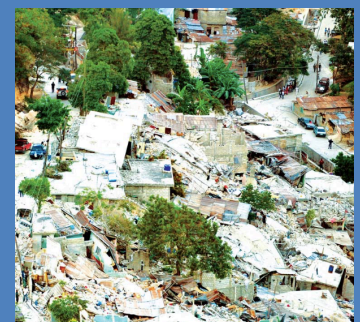
This course will include lectures, in-class activities/discussions, exams, and a class project with a paper and presentation element.

Professor Contact Information

Erik N. Johanson, PhD
 ejohanson@fau.edu
 Office: SE-43 Room 474
 Office Hours:
 T/R 10:50 – 11:50 AM

TA Contact Information posted on Canvas.

Text: Natural Disasters, 8th edition, by P.L. Abbott
 Additional readings to be posted on Canvas, check often!



Semester schedule including assignment due dates and assigned readings is posted on Canvas.

Continue to check the course site for posted readings/media and revisions to our course schedule.



Course Learning Objectives



Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamental natural hazards that occur on our planet.
2. Learn the geographic regions in which these hazards are most likely to occur and understand why they may not occur in certain other regions.
3. Uncover underlying spatial inequalities present across communities with respect to vulnerability to key natural hazards.
4. Understand how natural disasters can be prevented or mitigated, emphasizing safety implementation procedures.
5. Have a greater understanding of governmental agencies charged with managing after-effects from natural hazard events.
6. Explore the link between anthropogenic impacts in global climate and natural hazards.
7. Students will be able to analyze and interpret the spatial aspects of human activities on the landscape and the role of place and space in social life.

Additionally, students will develop their research skills, knowledge in interdisciplinary learning, written communication and critical thinking, as well as apply approaches/methodologies/techniques learned in previous, related classes.

Texts and Supplemental Materials For This Course

1. Natural Disasters, 8th edition, by P.L. Abbott (*note: used copies of the 8th edition are ~\$15*)
2. Additional readings/media will be assigned and announced throughout the semester. These readings/media will be posted on Canvas as PDFs for download or as a link. You are required to check canvas weekly.

Note: all readings should be completed **prior** to class.

Regarding Course Website

This class will use Canvas for announcements, non-textbook readings, media, grades, etc. Please check it often! Enrollment in the Canvas course is automatic for students officially enrolled in this section. If you have any questions about the use of Canvas in this course, please ask or come by my office hours for help.

Grade Breakdown

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92.9
B+: 87-89.9
B: 83-86.9
B-: 80-82.9

C+: 77-79.9
C: 73-76.9
C-: 70-72.9
D+: 67-69.9
D: 60-66.9

Course Evaluation

Exam 1	200 pts (20%)
Exam 2	200 pts (20%)
Exam 3	200 pts (20%)
Project Paper	200 pts (20%)
Project Presentation	100 pts (10%)
Activity/Attendance	100 pts (10%)
Total:	1000 pts (100%)

No extra credit will be assigned!

Exams

Tests will consist primarily of multiple choice and short answer questions. Attendance is mandatory for all exams. Make-up exams will not be administered except in extraordinary circumstances, and only if the instructor is notified within two days of the absence with an approved excuse. It will be left to the instructor's discretion to determine the justification of the make-up exam.



Project (Paper and Presentation)

Your course project will be detailed and confirmed within class. Students will select from several hazard case study options and then you will thoroughly research, prepare a PowerPoint presentation to be presented in class, and write a term paper that complements your presentation. Once selected and confirmed in class, topics will not be allowed to change. Students will receive a detailed guideline for the project and a rubric that will be used to evaluate your research, presentation, and paper. Included in our course schedule is one class period to peer-edit drafts.

Presentations should be 8-10 minutes with penalties assessed for those going over 11 minutes. You are responsible for getting the presentation to me *before* class as per the detailed instructions that will be provided! I highly recommend that you rehearse your presentation to ensure it fits within your given time.

Each student will complete a term paper that focuses on your assigned topic. The paper should include the incorporation of class discussions and readings, but should also demonstrate that the assigned topic was thoroughly researched and understood from a physical and social perspective while using the terminology of the course. Not counting the cover page and bibliography, the paper should be approximately 6 pages of text. Keep in mind that longer does not equate to better; I am looking for quality over quantity. Times New Roman size 12-font, double spaced with 1 inch margins (template to be provided). Proper in-text citations and a bibliography are expected. You may use the citation style of your choice, but a guide will also be posted. Additionally, a grading rubric will be provided on Canvas. The paper is due during the Final Exam period.

Activity/Attendance

Participation and attendance are critical to your success! Attendance will be taken and factored in when considering participation points. Coming to class *prepared* is even more critical! Occasional pop quizzes will be given for the assigned readings and in-class activities will also require your presence and reading. Additionally, some critical thinking responses to your readings may be assigned outside of class. Be sure to complete your readings *before* the assigned lecture. Also, factored into your participation grade are written presentation reflections completed during class periods with student presentations and turned in at the end of that period.



My Goal as a Teacher

My goal is to make this course as enjoyable and beneficial to you as possible. You will leave this course with useful knowledge that I hope will provide you with a new outlook on the world around you. I am here to assist and support you through the learning process. When you are away from campus, do not hesitate to e-mail any questions you may have, but allow for my response within 24 hours (sometimes longer). If you have any questions about anything covered in the lecture, please ask me during or after class, or come see me in my office. The time to seek help from me is before, not after, a test or presentation. Do not wait until the last week of classes to ask for help. The earlier you seek help, the better!

Disability Policy Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all ASA procedures. ASA has offices across three of FAU's campuses- Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter, however, disability services are available for students on all campuses.

Academic Integrity (Honor Code Policy Statement)

“Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. The FAU Code of Academic Integrity prohibits dishonesty and requires a faculty member, student, or staff member to notify an instructor when there is reason to believe dishonesty has occurred in a course/program requirement. The instructor must pursue any reasonable allegation, taking action where appropriate” (FAU Regulation 4.001, code of Academic Integrity). Further details of FAU’s Code of Academic Integrity can be found at [http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001 Code of Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf).

Note that although many in-class activities will be collaborative and I encourage students to study together, ALL students are expected to work through all of the assignments and turn in their own work.





Classroom Etiquette

University policy on the use of electronic devices states: “In order to enhance and maintain a productive atmosphere for education, personal communication devices, such as cellular telephones and pagers, are to be disabled in class sessions.” The only exception will be determined and announced by the instructor for special purposes, as indicated.

E-mail Etiquette

If you need to contact the instructor or your graduate teaching assistant by e-mail, please follow these guidelines. In the subject heading, include Geography 4930 or GEOG 4930 so that the email is not accidentally overlooked. For questions regarding the course schedule, grading, expectations, etc., first review the syllabus for the requested information. Please e-mail in a professional manner!

Civility Statement

Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well- being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected.

Student’s Responsibility	Instructor’s Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared for all classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared for all class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful of the students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively contribute to the learning activities in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and facilitate meaningful learning activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the Honor Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate all fairly and equally

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE, ALTER AND/OR AMEND THIS SYLLABUS, AS NECESSARY. STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN CLASS, CANVAS, AND/OR BY EMAIL OF ANY SUCH REVISIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.



EVR 4112–Nat Hazards, Climate, & Society

Date		Content/Topic		Readings
1	22-Aug	T	Class Introduction	<i>*additional readings to be posted on Canvas and announced</i>
2	24-Aug	R	Hazards Concepts	Ch. 1
3	29-Aug	T	Climate Change Introduced	Ch. 12
4	31-Aug	R	Climate Change & Hazards	Ch. 12
5	5-Sep	T	Earthquakes	Ch. 3 & 4
6	7-Sep	R	Earthquakes	Ch. 5
7	12-Sep	T	Volcanic Hazard	Ch. 6
8	14-Sep	R	Volcanic Hazard	Ch. 7
9	19-Sep	T	Documentary	
10	21-Sep	R	Exam 1	
11	26-Sep	T	Tsunamis	Ch. 8
12	28-Sep	R	Tsunamis	Ch. 8
13	3-Oct	T	Severe Weather & Tornadoes	Ch. 9 & 10
14	5-Oct	R	Severe Weather & Tornadoes	Ch. 9 & 10
15	10-Oct	T	Floods	Ch. 13
16	12-Oct	R	Floods	Ch. 13
17	17-Oct	T	Documentary	
18	19-Oct	R	Exam 2	
19	24-Oct	T	Tropical Cyclones (Hurricanes)	Ch. 11
20	26-Oct	R	Tropical Cyclones (Hurricanes)	Ch. 11
21	31-Oct	T	Wildfires	Ch. 14
22	2-Nov	R	Wildfires	Ch. 14
23	7-Nov	T	Mass Movements	Ch. 15
24	9-Nov	R	Mass Movements	Ch. 15
25	14-Nov	T	Documentary	
26	16-Nov	R	Exam 3	
27	21-Nov	T	Paper Drafts & Course Review	
28	23-Nov	R	Thanksgiving - No Class	
29	28-Nov	T	Presentations	
30	30-Nov	R	Presentations	
F	7-Dec	R	Final Exam Period	7:45am-10:15am