

SYLLABUS
Geological Hazards and the Media GS 1181-F04
Fall, 2016
MW12-12:50 PM VIN139

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Office hours: Monday 9-10, 1-2; Thursday 1-2; Friday 9-10; or by appointment. When my door is open you are welcome to come by.

No Required Texts: I will post any required readings and handouts on Blackboard or pass them out in class.

Course Description: This course will give students the background they need to critically evaluate geological hazards and disasters as they are portrayed in the news media and popular films. Students will learn the science behind many common geological hazards, such as mass movement and earthquakes. They will then be required to do reviews of two articles over the course of the term for evaluation. They will also take part in weekly group discussions on current articles that they bring to class, review the science in a “disaster” movie. Students will attend planetarium shows, and are encouraged hear talks by visiting scientists for the monthly San Angelo Geological Society meetings.

Grading

- 2 article summaries (20% each)
- Information Literacy course on Blackboard (15%)
- Participation in a university or college wide event (5%)
- Attend a planetarium show (5%)
- Class participation (30%)
- Attendance (5%)

Course Objectives:

- Developing skills in written and oral expression
- Locate campus resources for answering questions or solving problems
- Gather, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information relevant to geologic hazards.

Class Participation:

- You must bring in an article on at least one of the “topic discussion days” and contribute to the class discussion.

Core Student Learning Outcomes and Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Critical Thinking: Gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue – assessed through the Library Information Literacy Videos and writing assessment 2 and oral presentation on an article covering a geologic hazard/ disaster.
- Communication Skills: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written and oral communication – assessed through the technical grade on two major writing assignments and one oral presentation.
- Locate campus resources to solve problems and answer questions- assessed through library information literacy program at the library and visit to the writing center for article summaries.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend every class meeting. Your attendance will be recorded. If you must miss a class please let me know.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Cell phones must be turned off while in class. In addition, it is unacceptable to engage in text messaging during the class meeting time. If you are using any electronic devices other than a calculator (not your phone in calculator mode), a voice recorder, or a laptop computer to take notes, you may be asked by the instructor to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. The use of any electronic device not authorized by the instructor during a test may result in the forfeiture of your grade for that test. All electronic devices should be turned off and stored out of sight during tests.

Course Webpage

<http://blackboard.angelo.edu> contains PowerPoint slides, assigned readings, links to news articles and web pages pertinent to the course.

Know the ASU Honor Code

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

Student Organizations in Geology

GEO (Geologic Exhibition Organization), the student organization of all interested in geology, meets Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The first meeting will be September 7 at 6 PM. GEO is a student chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (www.aapg.org). Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the national honor society of the earth sciences is also active at Angelo State University.

You Can Major or Minor in Geology at ASU!

See Geoscience BS requirements at

https://www.angelo.edu/dept/physics/geoscience_degree.php An Earth

Science Minor requires 18 hours of geology courses. Physical Geology is a requirement for a major or a minor.

Rewarding careers exist for geologists, geophysicists, hydrogeologists, and secondary science teachers. Talk to your professors! Read <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/print/geoscientists.htm>

Statement of Persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities, which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Statement of religious holy days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Discussion topics/ assignment due dates
I August 29	Syllabus – The Scientific method Discussion- Types of geologic hazards- when is a hazard a disaster?
II September 5	NO CLASS Monday, Sept 5 Sept 7 Geologic Hazards- Earthquakes
III September 12	Sept 12-Article summary example – in class Sept 14-Geologic Hazards- Volcanic Eruptions Article for summary 1 Assigned Have information Literacy quizzes complete by Sept. 14
IV September 19	Information literacy corner Porter Henderson Library Sept 19 Sept 21-Geologic Hazards-Floods Choose article for Article summary 2
V September 26	Article summary 1 due Video- an inconvenient Truth
VI October 3	Video -The great global warming swindle Discussion -Global climate change what is the truth?
VII October 10	Discussions of articles brought to class (class choice of topic) Article summary 2 due October 12
VIII October 17	Discussions of articles brought to class (class choice of topic). Deadline for having gone to planetarium show and campus event