

# GEOL 1370 – NATURAL DISASTERS

SPRING 2023 SYLLABUS

## INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Daniel Hauptvogel

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Class Time: M/W/F 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, SEC 100

Office Hours: Send me an email and we'll set a date/time



## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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## TEXTBOOK

A textbook is required for this course and is part of the [Cougar Textbook Access Program \(CTAP\)](#). CTAP rolls the cost of books into your student fee bill so that you will have access to course materials on day 1. If you opt out of this program, you will need to purchase the digital version of the book [direct from W.W. Norton](#). The book is *Natural Disasters* by Stephen Marshak, ISBN 9780393532654, \$59.95 for the digital version and access to guided learning explorations. There will be several graded assignments given from this book. While I would love to use open-access materials, as I do for my physical geology class, a quality book does not exist for this course.



## GRADE BREAKDOWN

I will follow a standard grading scale for this class (Table 2). If your final grade reaches XX.5, it will round up to the next number.

Letter	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Number	≥ 93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

Table 1 - Grading Scale

## EXAMS: 40%

There will be four (4) non-cumulative exams during the semester and will only cover new material leading up to the exam (i.e., Exam 2 does not have material from Exam 1). The lowest exam grade will be dropped. Exams will take place online through Blackboard and will be open for a 14-hour window from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on exam days. Exams can be found in the “Exams” tab on our Blackboard page. Exams are open-book/note. Browser lockdown software and cameras will not be used. You will have 60 minutes to answer 50 questions. There are no lectures on exam days, so use our scheduled class time to take the exam.

## GUIDED LEARNING EXPLORATIONS: 15%

Each chapter will have an assigned Guided Learning Exploration (GLE). These are virtual exercises that summarize each chapter and include a range of interactive questions. Questions are based on the chapter readings. These assignments are completion-based. There are no due dates for GLEs, but all must be completed by May 1, our last day of class. All GLEs should be accessed through the links on Blackboard.

## QUIZZES: 15%

Each chapter will have a quiz based on the chapter readings and lectures. These will take place on Blackboard. Each quiz will contain 10 questions with a 15-minute time limit. Quizzes will be open book/note, and browser lockdown software and cameras will not be used. There are no due dates for quizzes but suggested due dates are given to keep you on pace with the material we cover in class. You can turn in quizzes at any time after they are posted, but there is a hard deadline of May 1, 2023, our last day of class, for all quizzes to be completed. No quizzes will be accepted after May 1.

## ASSIGNMENTS: 30%

There will be 6 assignments throughout the semester. You may work with others on the assignments, but all answers must be written in your own words. Late assignments are not accepted. Assignments will utilize Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and the desktop version of Google Earth. See [Required Software](#) below for more information on what you need for assignments and [Assignment Submissions](#) about the process of uploading completed assignments to Blackboard. All answers will need to be written in complete sentences except for filling in any data tables. Assignments do have due dates, and late work will not be accepted.

All assignments will be graded in two parts.

- **Part 1 (60%):** The accuracy and correctness of your answers.
- **Part 2 (40%):** The effort you put into your assignment. Effort will be determined by the content and quality of your answers, the neatness and formatting of your work, the completeness of your graphs,
  - All answers should be written in complete sentences, except for questions that ask for a graph or a table to be filled out.
  - Your document should be easy to read and follow so TAs can grade quickly and effectively. Make sure your answers are easy for TAs to distinguish from the question. Assignment documents will default to putting your answers in a different color if you use Microsoft Word.
  - Graphs should be legible with proper titles, labeled axes, and a legend. Trendlines and any statistics should be easily visible.
  - See Table 2 for the grading rubric on effort.

Table 2 - Assignment grading rubric for effort

Category	10 Points Excellent	8 points Good	6 Points Acceptable	4 Points Poor	2 points Very Poor
<b>Answer Quality</b>	Answers were well-written in complete sentences* with no grammatical or spelling mistakes.	Answers were written in complete sentences with some grammatical or spelling mistakes.	Most answers were written in complete sentences with some grammatical or spelling mistakes.	Many answers were not written in complete sentences and had many grammar and spelling mistakes.	All answers were not written in complete sentences and had many grammar/spelling mistakes.
<b>Demonstrated Knowledge</b>	Answer content indicated you had an excellent understanding of the topic.	Answer content indicated you had a good understanding of the topic.	Answer content indicated you had an acceptable understanding of the topic.	Answer content indicated you had a poor understanding of the topic.	Answer content indicated you had a very poor understanding of the topic.
<b>Graph Design &amp; Figure Presentation</b>	Graphs were legible and contained all important components (labeled axes with units, title, legend). Figures were legible	Graphs contained most of the important components and were legible. Figures were legible	Several graphs were missing important components and figures/graphs were not easy to read.	Most Graphs were lacking important components and graphs/figures were difficult to read	Graphs were entirely lacking important components
<b>Document Readability</b>	Your document was organized, formatted appropriately, and easy to read and grade.	Your document was mostly well-organized	Your document organization was okay, but had some issues	Your document was significantly lacking in organization, and it was hard to grade	Your document lacked any organization and was difficult to grade

\*All answers need to be written in complete sentences to receive any credit except for values in tables.

## COURSE POLICIES

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

Cheating, copying, and plagiarism are taken very seriously in this class. Any work that you submit must be written in your own words, even if you worked with others on an assignment. High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution, and bear directly on the ultimate value of conferred degrees.

All UH community members are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. The [UH Academic Honesty Policy](#) is designed to handle those instances with fairness to all parties involved: the students, the instructors, and the University itself. All students and faculty of the University of Houston are responsible for being familiar with this policy.

Many students don't realize certain actions or behaviors are considered plagiarism or cheating. Under the assignments section on Blackboard, you will see a cheating and plagiarism quiz, which is a selection of scenarios where you determine if cheating or plagiarism occurred. If you complete this quiz with a grade of 100 by 1/25, you'll receive 5 bonus points on your assignment 1 grade. You have unlimited attempts to score 100.

### CHATGPT

Most of you have heard about ChatGPT, and you may be tempted to use it for dishonest purposes in your classes. I think this will fundamentally change education from both student and professor perspectives. The bottom line is that using ChatGPT to get answers to questions is academic dishonesty. Can professors catch it? Programs are already being released to detect if answers come from ChatGPT, and the developers are working on a way to invisibly watermark the answers from the program.

While other professors will try to ban its use, I want to encourage you to use ChatGPT smartly because I look at it as another tool to use for education. Most importantly, the answers you get from the program are only as good as the information you feed into it, and it is not very good at answering many of the questions you'll see on assignments from this class (I've already tried 😊), and it can't make figures/graphs. It is, however, very good at providing basic information to help you. For example, you can ask it to explain something you don't understand, like the concept of partial melting (we'll talk about this during the volcanoes chapter). Ask it to create practice questions about a particular topic. Ask it to create a study guide about a topic. You can ask it to explain how to perform a function or calculation in Google Earth and Excel.

### ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS

All assignments will be uploaded to Blackboard via Turnitin. Uploading assignments is a 2-step process.

- **Step 1: Initial assignment upload** – You select the document you want to upload.
- **Step 2: Confirm assignment submission** - After you initially upload your assignment, you will be asked to confirm your submission. If you see the big green check mark after hitting "Submit to Turnitin", then you successfully uploaded your assignment.

If you don't confirm your submission in the 2<sup>nd</sup> step, your document will not be submitted, and you will receive a grade of 0. The uploading process will take longer when everyone tries to upload with a few minutes remaining on the deadline, so be sure to upload your assignment earlier. Do not use Apple's Safari browser for uploading assignments, it will not work.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not required, but I will take attendance daily. You will earn 0.33 points of extra credit on an upcoming exam for each day you attend class (points will start on 1/25). Attendance will be recorded using Microsoft Forms.

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

## LATE OR MISSED WORK

In general, late work is not accepted and missed work cannot be made up. However, if you have a valid reason and supporting documentation, we can arrange for the completion of the work. Common, valid reasons typically include sickness or other medical reason, car related incidents, death in the family, and travel for academic or athletic reasons. Examples of supporting documentation would be a doctor's note, police report, car mechanic receipt, letter from the athletic department, etc. A note from your mother is not adequate.

## RECORDING OF CLASS

Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

## REQUIRED SOFTWARE

You will need the desktop versions of the following computer software for this class (all are free to you): Google Earth Pro, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. The desktop versions are important because the web-based versions do not offer the same functionality.

- **Google Earth Pro:** You will also need to download the desktop version of [Google Earth Pro](#). The web application does not have the same functions as the desktop version, so you must download and install the desktop software by clicking on "Download Earth Pro on Desktop".
- **Microsoft Office Products:** You'll need the desktop versions of Excel, Word, and potentially PowerPoint. The desktop versions, particularly Excel, have more functionality than the web-based versions. To download these programs, log into [access UH](#) > click on the Microsoft 365 icon > log into your

Microsoft account using your @cougarnet.uh.edu credentials > click on the dropdown menu on the right side that says “Install apps” and then “Microsoft 365 apps”.

- **Microsoft Excel:** Many of you will be unfamiliar with Microsoft Excel, so the first assignment will introduce you to some of the basic functions we’ll use.
- **Microsoft Word:** Assignment files are created in Microsoft Word and are best completed using this software. You can also use other word-processing software.
- **Microsoft PowerPoint:** You may find you need to annotate images or graphs for assignments. You can download Microsoft PowerPoint just like you did for Excel. Alternatively, you can use Microsoft Paint or Apple Preview to annotate images.

## SYLLABUS CHANGES

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email, class lectures, and Blackboard.

## SERVICES OFFERED BY EAS & UH

### COVID-19 INFORMATION

Students are encouraged to visit the University’s [COVID-19](#) website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, testing, vaccine information, and post-exposure guidance. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates. Consult the (select: [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) or [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#)) for information regarding excused absences due to medical reasons.

### COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

Students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless can reach CAPS ([www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. Also, there is no appointment necessary for the “Let’s Talk” program, which is a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. <https://uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets-talk/>.

### GEOSCIENCE LEARNING CENTER (GLC)

Graduate student TAs staff a [learning center](#) dedicated to providing extra help and tutoring to students in geology courses. The GLC is in Fleming room 136. It is open M-Th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and F 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. See Table 1 for GLC hours for TAs of this class.

### REASONABLE ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS/AUXILIARY AIDS

The University of Houston complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for disabled students. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, UH strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact [the Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center](#) (formerly the Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES).



## SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

The University of Houston System (UHS) including UH Main seek to provide an educational environment free from sex discrimination, including non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking.

We encourage you to report any sexual misconduct to the UH Title IX Coordinator by phone (713-743-8835) or by clicking the '[Sexual Misconduct Reporting and Awareness](#)' link at the bottom of all UH webpages. If you report any sexual misconduct to me or if I see or overhear something that may fall under the policy, I am absolutely REQUIRED to share that information with our Title IX Coordinator. For more information about the UH Sexual Misconduct policy, and counseling and support resources available to you, go to the [UH Title IX Website](#).

## UH EMAIL

Please check and use your CougarNet email for communications related to this course. To access this email, [login](#) to your Microsoft 365 account with your CougarNet credentials.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER WORKSHOPS

A great campus resource with [workshops](#) on a variety of classroom success-related topics

## SCHEDULE

The following tables are the course schedule (Table 3), GLE and quiz due dates (Table 4), and assignment due dates (Table 5). All dates are subject to change.

Date	Topic
1/18	Introduction
1/20	Ch. 1 – Introducing Natural Disasters
1/23	Ch. 1 – Introducing Natural Disasters <b>*1/24 – LAST DAY TO ADD A CLASS*</b>
1/25	Ch. 2 – Plate Tectonics
1/27	Ch. 2 – Plate Tectonics
1/30	Ch. 3 – Earthquakes
2/1	Ch. 3 – Earthquakes <b>*2/1 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH NO GRADE*</b>
2/3	Ch. 3 – Earthquakes
2/6	Ch. 3 – Earthquakes
2/8	Ch. 4 – Volcanic Eruptions
2/10	Ch. 4 – Volcanic Eruptions
2/13	Ch. 4 – Volcanic Eruptions
2/15	<b>EXAM 1</b>
2/17	Ch. 5 – Mass Wasting (Landslides)
2/20	Ch. 5 – Mass Wasting
2/22	Ch. 5 – Mass Wasting
2/24	Ch. 6 - Tsunamis
2/27	Ch. 6 - Tsunamis
3/1	Ch. 6 - Tsunamis
3/3	Ch. 7 – Sinkholes and Subsidence
3/6	Ch. 7 – Sinkholes and Subsidence

Date	Topic
3/8	Ch. 7 – Sinkholes and Subsidence
<b>3/10</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>
<b>3/13-3/18</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
3/20	Ch. 8 – The Atmosphere
3/22	Ch. 8 – The Atmosphere
3/24	Ch. 8 – The Atmosphere
3/27	Ch. 9 – Thunderstorms and Tornadoes
3/29	Ch. 9 – Thunderstorms and Tornadoes
3/31	Ch. 9 – Thunderstorms and Tornadoes
4/3	Ch. 10 – Winter Weather
4/5	Ch. 10 – Winter Weather
4/7	Ch. 10 – Winter Weather
<b>4/10</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>
4/12	Ch. 11 – Hurricanes
4/14	Ch. 11 – Hurricanes
4/17	Ch. 11 – Hurricanes
4/19	Ch. 12 – Flooding <b>*4/29 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH GRADE W*</b>
4/21	Ch. 12 – Flooding
4/24	Ch. 12 – Flooding
4/26	Ch. 14 – Drought, Heat Waves, and Wildfires
4/28	Ch. 14 – Drought, Heat Waves, and Wildfires
5/1	Ch. 14 – Drought, Heat Waves, and Wildfires
<b>5/TBA</b>	<b>EXAM 4</b>

Table 3 – Course Schedule. Subject to change.

Quizzes	Guided Learning Explorations	Suggested Due Date
Chapter 1	Introduction	1/25
Chapter 2	N/A	1/30
Chapter 3	Earthquakes	2/8
Chapter 4	Volcanic Eruptions	2/17
Chapter 5	Mass Wasting	2/24
Chapter 6	Tsunamis	3/3
Chapter 7	Sinkholes and Subsidence	3/8
Chapter 8	N/a	3/24
Chapter 9	Thunderstorms and Tornadoes	3/31
Chapter 10	Hazardous Winter Weather	4/7
Chapter 11	Hurricanes	4/17
Chapter 12	Inland Flooding	4/24
Chapter 14	Wildfires	5/1

Table 4 - Due dates for Quizzes and Guided Learning Explorations. Each chapter will have a separate GLE and quiz to be completed. The suggested due dates follow the same schedule for both. These are suggested due dates, all GLEs and quizzes must be completed by 5/1.

Assignment	Date Assigned	Due Date
1. Introduction	1/18	1/30
2. Earthquakes	1/30	2/10
3. Volcanoes	2/8	2/17



Assignment	Date Assigned	Due Date
4. Mass Wasting/Sinkholes	2/20	3/8
6. Weather	3/27	4/17
7. Flooding	4/19	4/28

Table 5 - Due dates for assignments. These are hard due dates and late work will not be accepted.