Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Road
Middletown, CT 06457
www.mxcc.commnet.edu

Course Outline

Course Title: **Natural Disasters**

Course #: **EVS 106-30**

Course Item #: 4027

Semester: Winter 2014-15 **(Dec. 29, 2014 – Jan. 15, 2015)** **Semester Hours:** 3.0

Class Meeting Times—Day/Time: **Online**

Instructor: Mr. Paul Maywood

Instructor's Contact Information: Blackboard mail or pmaywood@mcc.commnet.edu (note that this is a Manchester email)
maywoodpas@ccsu.edu (alternate: use only if commnet email is down)

VERY IMPORTANT: If you are using commnet to email me for help or information please use the following format in your subject line:

EAS 106 [your name] HELP

Online Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. and Sunday 7-8:00 pm. Simply go to the Office Hours link during the time window specified. The instructor will be available for chat or consultation at other times by appointment.

Phone Contact: (860) 262-4883 (leave message). Course message or email will get you a faster response. I will generally be able to respond to email requests within 12-24 hours.

Course Prerequisite: Eligible for ENG*101 (3 credits)

Scope of Course: EVS*106, Natural Disasters, CRN 4027. This course examines the science behind different types of natural disasters and our ability or inability to control and predict such events. From this course, students will gain an appreciation of natural disasters and will better understand how the effects of disasters can be reduced.

Required Text: Keller & DeVecchio, 2015, *Natural Hazards*, 4th ed., Prentice Hall ISBN-10: **0-321-93996-4,** ISBN-13: **978-0-321-93996-8**. **Special Note: Do not purchase prior editions!**

Also Required: calculator and scale or ruler

Evaluation Criteria (Grading):
The following factors will make up your grade (see breakdown below):

1. 40% exams
2. 10% quizzes
3. 35% assignments
4. 15% discussions

Grading Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9
A- 90-92.9	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D- 60-62.9
B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9	F <60

Grades for each assignment will be posted in Blackboard 'My Grades'. Although rolling course averages will be displayed, you should also know how to calculate your own course average at any time.

Course Requirements and Online Learning

Each student will be required to read and study all text and lecture materials for each 3-day block. There may be additional materials to enhance understanding of each area covered for the student to complete for each block.

Rules for online dialogue:
1) Always be polite.
2) Try to make positive comments, even if you do not fully agree with the instructor or other students.
3) Do not give out any personal data. You may email Mr. Maywood or other students through the Blackboard site. Therefore, there is no need to give out your personal email address to any other student.
4) Access the Blackboard course site at least once per day. There is a significant amount of reading, homework assignments and assessments during the session.

Course Components

Announcements: This important Blackboard tool will be used to communicate any change or important information about assignments, any change in schedule, or to tell you about upcoming field trips, special events of interest, or exam details.

Learning Modules: Inside the learning module you will see the six time blocks listed below in the course schedule. Simply click on the first link and you will see all the materials you need to submit for the first block. Complete your assignments and submit all your materials for that block by the deadline required and repeat for each module for the rest of the session.

Exams: Two non-cumulative exams will be given throughout the session. These exams (52-68 questions, 60-80 minutes) are objective exams with emphasis on concepts and applications. Exams will be available for a three- or four-day period and must be completed by the specified deadline. Questions may be true/false, multiple choice, multiple-multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, essay and/or critical thinking. Questions will be made up from quiz questions, lecture notes, the text, outside readings, and/or homework assignments. **The lowest exam score will NOT be dropped.** After the exam, answers and grades will be released; therefore, missed exams cannot be made up. Due to the

abbreviated nature of the course, no makeups or extensions will be permitted, except under Religious Accommodation, below. Exam 2 is not cumulative and will carry the same weight as the prior exam.

Quizzes: Eight quizzes will be given. Quizzes (12-16 questions, 15-25 minutes) will be available for a three-day period and must be taken by the specified late night deadline. Questions are generally true/false or multiple choice and will generally focus on a single chapter. Questions will be generated from lecture notes, the text, outside readings, and/or homework assignments. After the quiz, answers and grades will be released; therefore, missed quizzes cannot be made up. No makeups or extensions will be permitted, except under Religious Accommodation, below.

Assignments: Five assignments will be given. Assignments must be submitted by the specified late night deadline. Topical exercises may include plate tectonics, earthquake analysis, severe weather, global warming and/or other topics. Assignments must be entered into the submission window provided and attachments are NOT accepted. Missed homework assignments cannot be made up and you will receive a zero for any outstanding work, except under Religious Accommodation, below. If you know you will be late with any assignment for any reason, ***please notify the instructor beforehand***.

Discussions: Two discussions will be assigned and may be accessed from the learning modules or the discussions button on the left-hand toolbar. Your discussion/reply must be submitted by the specified late night deadline. Students are to provide **substantive** feedback on discussion topics. This will be evaluated based on relevance, readability/complete sentences and number of words. Discussions will need to be a minimum of 200 words and replies to others' posts will need to reach a 150-word minimum, unless otherwise specified. One discussion and one response will be submitted for each topic, except Discussion 1 which will be one discussion only. *Your reply also needs to be substantive and not just a rehash of your post.* For each discussion grade, 70% will be based upon the discussion and 30% upon the reply. Students will be given a letter grade based on A=95%, B=85%, C=75%, D=65%, etc.

Field Trips: **Field trips are optional.** Weather permitting, one or possibly more field trips may be offered. A short report or question/answer sheet will be required if you wish to get ***extra credit*** for this activity. Dates and times will be provided in the Announcements tool. The following have been previous destinations:

Connecticut Shoreline (several locations)
Connecticut River (two locations)
Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT
Warwick Mall, Warwick, RI

Course Schedule and Text Readings: This course schedule is a best estimate and deviations may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

Block	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	**12/29-12/31/2014**	Introduction to Natural Hazards Internal Earth Structure and Plate Tectonics	Methods of Science, Critical Thinking, Chap. 1 Chap. 2	Purchase text Familiarize yourself with Blackboard **Chapter 1 Quiz** **Chapter 2 Quiz** **Assignment 1: Hypotheses** **Discussion 1: Introduction**

Block	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
2	**1/1-1/3/2015**	Earthquakes Tsunamis Volcanoes	Chap. 3 Chap. 4 Chap. 5	**Chapter 3 Quiz** **Chapter 5 Quiz** **Assignment 2: Plate Tectonics** **Assignment 3: Tsunami**
3	**1/4-1/6/2015**	Flooding	Chap. 6	**Exam 1** (Ch. 1-6, Critical Thinking, Methods of Science)
4	**1/7-1/9/2015**	Mass Wasting Atmosphere and Severe Weather Hurricanes and Extratropical Cyclones	Chap. 7 Chap. 9 Chap. 10	**Chapter 7 Quiz** **Chapter 9 Quiz** **Assignment 4: Tornadoes**
5	**1/10-1/12/2015**	Coastal Hazards Climate and Climate Change	Chap. 11 Chap. 12	**Chapter 10 Quiz** **Chapter 11 Quiz** **Assignment 5: The Ultimate Climate Change** Sat., Jan. 10 - Poss. Field Trip
6	**1/13-1/15/2015**	Impacts and Extinctions	Chap. 14	**Discussion 2: Climate Change** **Exam 2** (Ch. 7,9-12,14)

NOTE: ***The above schedule is subject to change.***

Success in this course will require:

Strong discipline and a desire to succeed. You will need to log in to Blackboard often (typically, at least once daily, motivating yourself to meet the requirements for success.
Ability to work well independently. You'll develop the support of your fellow students all taking the same course together, but it will be different than a typical classroom environment. If you work well independently, your chance of success is higher.
Computer Savvy. If you're not familiar with the internet and email communication, we recommend that you take a computer enrichment class prior to enrolling in this course. Faculty assumes you know how to access and send data on the internet.

Course Outcomes

This course is designed to achieve several broad goals. As a result of this course you will:

- Understand the process and distinguishing characteristics of scientific inquiry.
- Identify physical features and processes within the Earth system.
- Describe the interactions between Earth processes and human endeavors.
- Critically evaluate sources of information about science issues.
- Interpret scientific information presented in map, chart, and graphic form.
- Demonstrate literacy, critical thinking, communication, and learning skills.

Content Objectives

- Explain the role of population growth and economic development in contributing to the occurrence and severity of natural disasters.

- Describe geological, hydrological, and atmospheric processes interacting within the Earth system.
- Identify sources of energy within the Earth system and describe the accumulation and transfer of energy involved in natural disasters.
- Identify the physical causes and consequences of natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, severe weather, flooding, and extraterrestrial impacts.
- Discuss the causes of global climate change and its contributions to the occurrence and severity of natural disasters.
- List and describe factors controlling the spatial distribution, frequency, and magnitude of natural disasters.
- Analyze and critically evaluate maps, graphs and data from actual disasters.
- Identify the challenges in hazard assessment and prediction.
- Describe the ecological and social consequences of natural disasters.
- Evaluate the role of humans in causing and mitigating natural disasters.
- Identify and correct common misconceptions about natural disasters.

Skills Development:
Critical Thinking
Evaluating Sources of Information
Forming Hypotheses
Data Collection & Interpretation
Map Reading
Image Analysis
Web Searches
Reading & Writing
Computer Use
Time Management
Learning How to Learn

MxCC Core Competencies:
Communication Skills
Conceptual/Critical Thinking Skills
Technological Literacy
Information Literacy
Quantitative Reasoning
Understanding of Diversity
Values, Ethics & Responsible Citizenship
Aesthetic Perspectives

Policies

Makeups: As stated previously, there are no makeup dates for quizzes or exams. Due to the abbreviated nature of the winter session,

Grading: The College uses the following grades and quality points:

A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = 0.7
B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	F = 0.0

The following have no quality points:

W (Withdrawal)	I (Incomplete)	AU (Audit)
U (Fail)	N (No Basis for Grade)	S (Pass)

Withdrawal: See the MxCC catalog for the College's policy on withdrawal dates, without penalty. I will consider giving a withdrawal (rather than an F) if you decide within a reasonable timeframe (one week) that you are either unprepared to continue this course, or that other constraints in your life will not permit you to continue.

Class Expectations: Science includes good communication skills (listening, speaking and writing). Professional courtesy and respect is expected from all participants of the class. It is also important to be safe, courteous and watch out for each other during field trips.

ADA Accommodations: Students with physical or learning disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the Counseling Office. After disclosing the nature of the disability, students are urged to discuss their needs with individual instructors. This should be done at the beginning of each semester. Instructors, in conjunction with appropriate college officials, will provide assistance and/or accommodations only to those students who have completed this process.

Academic Honesty: At Middlesex Community-Technical College we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees' Proscribed Conduct Policy in Section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations or course materials, plagiarism, and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Religious Accommodation: If your religious obligations conflict with the course calendar requirements, and if you wish to request an accommodation, you must make your request in writing prior to the date of the assessment or activity you will miss and preferably at the beginning of the semester. When requesting a make-up quiz, test, exam, assignment, or activity, state the reason for your request and the date(s) on which your religious obligation(s) will conflict with the course calendar requirements. Also, if your religious obligation/holiday is unfamiliar to your instructor, you may be asked to provide a calendar which shows the published date(s) of your religious observance(s) or holiday(s).

Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather either before the start of a day when classes are in session or during the *school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc.* by listening to the radio and television stations listed below. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at www.mxcc.commnet.edu and an announcement made on the college's main phone number, (860) 343-5800. *(When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option 1 from the menu for school closings.)* If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

Radio Stations	Television Stations
WMRD 1150 am	WFSB - 3
WDRC 102.9 fm and 1360 am	WTNH - 8

WMMW 1470 am WVIT - 30
WRCH 100.5 fm
WTIC 1080 am, 96.5 fm
WZMX 93.7 fm
WELI 960 am, WKCI 101 fm

Off Campus Sites:

The MxCC Meriden Center will comply with the Middletown campus policy. Exception: In the event of extreme weather only in the Meriden area and the Middletown campus determines to hold classes, the decision to cancel classes at the Meriden Center will be determined by the MxCC Meriden Center Director and the Dean of Finance & Administration.

The Old Saybrook off campus site will comply with the Middletown campus policy. Exception: In the event of extreme weather only at the off campus site, the decision to hold or cancel classes at this extension center will be made by our campus extension program director. Faculty should call the Continuing Education Office at (860) 343-5865.

Note: Off campus sites are ultimately subject to the cancellation policy of the school in which MxCC holds classes.