

GEOG3205 Environmental Hazards (6 credits)

Course Teacher: To be confirmed

Objectives

This course introduces students to a wide range of environmental hazards, their impacts on human societies and the planning and mitigation measures which can be employed to manage these.

Course Synopsis

This course examines a range of environmental hazards of geological, geomorphological, atmospheric, biological and human origin focusing on their origins, characteristics and impacts on human society. It will also deal with the responses available to different societies to deal with these hazards including disaster relief, loss sharing and event modification adjustments. Basic hazard planning and management principles are outlined. Where practicable local and regional examples will be used as illustrations.

Lecture Topics

- Definitions, perceptions and adjustments
- Geological and geomorphological hazards
- Hydrological and atmospheric hazards
- Biological and other environmental hazards
- Comprehensive hazard management and planning

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 60%; Coursework 40% (consists of 2 coursework assignments).

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- An introduction to a wide range of environmental hazards
- An understanding of their origins, characteristics and impacts on human society
- Perspectives on the responses available to different societies to deal with hazards
- Basic understanding of comprehensive hazard planning and management principles

Skills:

- Critical reading and writing skills
- Development of data analysis/interpretation skills
- Enhancement of individual presentation skills
- Ability to think critically about the relationship between environmental hazards and human societies

Recommended Reading List

1. Keller, E.A. and DeVecchio, D.E. (2014) *Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters and Catastrophes, 4th edition*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
2. Smith, K. (2013) *Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster, 6th edition*. London: Routledge.
3. Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (2015) *The human cost of natural disasters: a global perspective*. 57 pages