

GEOL 3400: Geologic Hazards

Department of Geology & Geophysics, University of Wyoming

Spring, 2010

lab (13 @ 20 pts/ea)	260	31
Total Points	830	100

I reserve the right to modify exam dates or the grading system in response to unforeseen events that may occur during the semester.

Each week there will be a weekly reading questionnaire. They will constitute 140 points of your final grade (17 %). Each questionnaire covers a chapter in your textbook and consists of ten short-answer questions. The questionnaire is due by midnight on the due date.

There will be 2 Lecture Activities each worth 10 points for a total of 20 points (2 %). The lecture activities are unannounced and conducted (obviously) during lecture. If you miss the lecture when an activity is done, you earn no points. Lecture activities can only be made up if you have a valid university excuse.

You can also earn 10 points (1 %) by completing a pre- and post-course knowledge survey. In addition to helping me assess student learning, the pre-course survey allows you to evaluate your understanding of geologic hazards prior to the course. To assess your improvement in knowledge about geologic hazards, you will fill out the same knowledge survey at the end of the semester. If you complete both surveys, you will receive 10 points toward your course grade. To receive these points, you must complete *both* surveys.

Three hundred points (36 %) will be from lecture exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams will be short answer with some essay questions. They will cover the material presented in lecture and any assigned reading but not the labs (although the latter are complimentary). You must obtain prior permission to take an exam at any time other than during the scheduled period. If you skip an exam, you fail it. Lecture activities are also good sources for exam questions.

There will be a 100 point final exam (12 %). This exam will be comprehensive and have approximately twice the number of questions as one of the hourly exams. Fifty percent of the final exam questions will come from the three previous lecture exams.

The lab will make up the final 260 points (31 %) of the course grade. There will be 13 lab sessions each worth 20 points. Lab attendance is mandatory and all assigned lab exercises must be completed on time.

There will be no grading curve for this course. Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Grade	Percentage	Point Range
A	≥ 90	≥ 747
B	80-89	664-746
C	70-79	581-663
D	60-69	498-580
F	< 60	≤ 497

A fixed grading scheme emphasizes that you are not competing with your peers for a grade. It also means your grade in the course is based on the quality of your work, not on how poorly your peers do in the course. If all students in the course earn an A, I would be very pleased. It would indicate you all worked hard and mastered the subject matter. One way of achieving this is by working with your peers to understand the topics presented in lecture and lab.

Communicating with me

My office is in ESB 2036 and my office hours are MWF 9:00-10:00 am. There are four ways to communicate with me: during my office hours, by phone, via email, and by appointment. Perhaps the best way to reach me is via email. I generally respond to campus email immediately. If your questions are related to a matter that affects the entire class, I will post

your question and my answer on the course website. Check this source frequently for course information and announcements, particularly if you miss a class.

Textbook

The required textbook for the course is:

Abbott, P.L., 2008, *Natural Disasters* (7th ed.), McGraw-Hill, 526 pp.
ISBN: 978-0-07-337669-1

Because the reading questionnaires as well as a number of questions for each lecture exam are taken directly from the assigned readings, purchasing and reading the textbook is highly recommended.

Academic Dishonesty

University Regulations (UNIREG 802) define academic dishonesty as an act or attempted act which misrepresents one's involvement in an academic task in any way, or permits another student to misrepresent the latter's involvement in an academic task by assisting in the misrepresentation. Some examples of academic dishonesty include: a.) representing as one's own work material copied or borrowed from any source, written or otherwise, public or private, without proper citation of the source; b.) using a ghost writer, commercial or otherwise, for any type of assignment; c.) doing a class assignment for someone else or allowing someone to copy one's assignment; d.) using notes or prepared information in an examination unless authorized by the instructor; e.) taking an examination for someone else or allowing someone to take an examination for oneself; f.) copying from, or assisting, another student during an examination; or g.) stealing, or otherwise improperly obtaining, copies of an examination before or after its administration. Academic dishonesty will result in failure of the course.

Special Needs

If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability that requires accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY: 766-3073.