

Earth Science 150L: Catastrophic Earth Lab

Spring 2008

Course Information

Lab: Thursdays 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, MSEC 209

Instructor: Susan Bilek

Contact Info: phone 835-6510, office MSEC 358, email sbilek@nmt.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30 pm or by appointment

TA: Christina Forbes

Contact Info: office MSEC 190, email cforbes@nmt.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3 pm, Fridays 10 am – 12 pm

Course Materials

Required Text: *Natural Hazards 2nd Edition*, authors: Keller and Blodgett, Prentice Hall, 2008 (along with Hazard City CD packaged with text).

Class Website: www.ees.nmt.edu/Geop/Classes/Geop150/homepage.html

Course Objectives

This laboratory course will provide hands-on opportunities for students to analyze and interpret data to assess natural hazards around the world. Students will be able to measure and located earthquakes and volcano hazards, assess flooding and earthquake hazards based on geological maps, determine landslide potential in various regions, describe severe weather conditions based on weather data, and assess coastal hazards based on geologic conditions.

Grading Policy

The course grade will be based on student performance on lab assignments and participation (i.e. coming to each lab, asking questions, answering questions). Each lab assignment will be worth 7% of the grade (combined 90% of total grade), with class participation making up the final 10% of the grade.

Late policy

Each lab assignment will be **due at the beginning of lab** the following week. Extension requests due to emergencies must be made before the due date. Penalties of 10% per day will be applied for late assignments.

Academic Honesty

I expect that you do your own work on the lab assignments. You may discuss topics with other students, but you must write up your own work, in your own words. If you are using additional sources for material when writing up the lab assignments, do not copy directly from the source, but paraphrase (put information in your own words). Please see the library's website for more discussion of this issue

(<http://infohost.nmt.edu/~nmtlib/INFO/ORef/plagiarism.html>) or see me with questions.

Problems with cheating or plagiarism will lead to a failing grade in the course.

Lab Schedule

Date	Lab #	Topic
1/31	Lab 1	Units, measurements, and the scientific method
2/7	Lab 2	Rocks and Minerals
2/14	Lab 3	Plate tectonics and plate motions
2/21	Lab 4	Earthquake hazards
2/28	Lab 5	Earthquakes and tsunami
3/6	Lab 6	Volcano hazards
3/13	No lab	Spring Break
3/20	Lab 7	Landslide hazards
3/27	Lab 8	Reading and using weather maps/data
4/3	Lab 9	Thunderstorms and tornadoes
4/10	Lab 10	Hurricanes
4/17	Lab 11	Coastal Hazards
4/24	Lab 12	Floods
5/1	Lab 13	Climate Change
5/8	Lab 14	Wrap up and evaluations