



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

Natural Hazards

2013-2014

Course Description:

Natural Hazards explores natural events that cause extensive damage to environments. Severe weather, such as tornadoes and hurricanes, and geological happenings, like earthquakes, volcanoes, and extraterrestrial impacts, will be investigated both quantitatively and qualitatively. The interaction between humans and natural hazards will also be examined, including attempts to predict, control, and recover from these events.

Course Content:

- Earthquakes (plate boundaries, faults, aftershocks, frequency)
- Tsunami (tsunamigenic events, wave properties)
- Volcanoes (types, eruption properties)
- Landslides (properties, causes)
- Severe Thunderstorms (water and heat in the atmosphere, precipitation, prediction)
- Tornadoes (formation, severity, geographical distribution)
- Hurricanes (formation, severity, path)
- Winter Storms (formation, severity, precipitation, path)
- Extraterrestrial Impacts (near-Earth objects, likelihood of collision, past impacts)

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Earth Science by Namowitz and Spaulding. McDougall Littell, 2003.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to:

- explain the causes and effects of natural hazards
- address societal needs using Earth science knowledge
- communicate scientific thoughts through speech and writing
- perform laboratory activities to test hypotheses
- draw conclusions from scientific data

Grade Components/Assessments:

To measure the multiple intelligences of our students, a wide variety of assessments will be used in Natural Hazards. Quarter grades will be determined as follows:

- 40% - Tests and Quizzes
- 30% - Projects
- 20% - Labs
- 10% - Homework/Classwork

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MARKING PERIOD BREAKDOWN BELOW IS FOR FULL-YEAR COURSES. SEMESTER COURSES BREAK DOWN DIFFERENTLY.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

No Required Summer Reading