

GEOL 007 Earth Hazards

Discussion Section Outline

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STRUCTURE

During each discussion section we will investigate the topic of the week through readings, activities, and discussions. Discussion sections are not labs; they meet for only 50 minutes a week and you will rarely be assigned work outside of section. The purpose of offering discussion sections in this class is to give you a chance to interact with your peers in a small-class setting while you experience and discuss various aspects and issues surrounding natural disasters. The focus is therefore less on factual learning, and more on sharing and gaining experiences and ideas.

EXPECTATIONS

1. We expect you to respect your classmates and faculty at all times. These sections include topics and discussions that will elicit differing opinions. We expect all students to respect others' opinions and the right to voice them.
2. We expect full attendance at your assigned discussion sections. We expect you to arrive at or before the scheduled start of your section and to stay until the end.
3. We expect you to participate in all activities. We expect you to take an active role in class by asking questions, voicing opinions, and completing all in-section assignments. We expect participation to be respectful and not disruptive to other students.

GRADING

Discussion sections will be graded based on your participation, attitude, and work in section. You will be allowed to drop your lowest grade, which could be a *No Credit* if you have missed a section. Below is a description of the expectations for each grade.

Check plus. You take an active and/or leading role in activities and discussions. You have a positive influence on the class and your presence improves the classroom experience for everyone. You demonstrate thorough preparation for section. You must go out of your way to earn this grade.

Check. You are present in class and take an average role in activities and discussions. You demonstrate a positive attitude and willingness to participate but do not go out of your way to enhance the section. Most people should expect to earn this grade.

Check minus. You are present in class but offer limited participation in or resistance to activities and discussions. You will earn this grade if your presence offers little contribution to the classroom experience.

No Credit. You are not present OR you are disruptive and/or disrespectful to other students or faculty during class. You will earn this grade if your presence is detrimental to the classroom experience.

PUNCTUALITY

Most activities we will do require the full amount of time scheduled. Arriving on time is essential to the learning experience of the entire class. If you arrive more than five minutes late, you will be penalized by downgrading one level your discussion section grade.