

EARTH HAZARD FAQ...FALL 2007

That's Frequently Asked Questions!

1. IS THERE A DISCUSSION SECTION THE FIRST WEEK?

No!but please do come week 2 and meet your TA and figure out where Delehanty Hall and your section classroom are located!

2. IS THERE A FINAL? WOULD YOU LET ME TAKE A FINAL IF IT WOULD HELP MY GRADE?

No. The course is designed in modules, each of which closes with a quiz. There is no required or optional final.

3. ARE THERE MAKE UP QUIZZES OR DISCUSSION SECTIONS?

No. There is no way to make up missed quizzes or discussions. You need to contact Paul or your TA before you miss something to seek accommodation. If you sign in the class late, it's your responsibility to get the material you missed from a friend.

4. WHERE AND WHEN DO I GET MY QUIZZES BACK?

That's easy. When you come to Delehanty for discussion section, go up to the third floor and outside Room 307 (Paul's office) you'll find your quizzes on the wall sorted by date and name.

5. DO I NEED TO COME TO CLASS?

Absolutely. This is a class about participating and immersing yourself in the material. We do in-class exercises and watch videos. We discuss issues. All of this you can't get well from your friend's notes. Your grade will reflect attendance. Miss a quiz day and you miss a quiz. Miss a non-quiz day and you'll lose about a point off your final grade. There are no make ups for missed classes or quizzes.

6. I'M NOT HAPPY WITH MY GRADE ON A QUIZ. WHAT CAN I DO?

First, check the TA's math. Does everything add up? Second, check your answer against the posted grading rubric posted outside Room 307 Delehanty. If you still disagree with grading, see your TA after class or preferably during their office hours so you get personal attention. If you disagree with the TA's response, copy your quiz, attach a written rationale for why you think you have unfairly lost points, and submit it to Paul. If you choose this option, I will regrade your entire quiz. You might gain points but might also lose points.

7. WHAT IF I JOINED THE CLASS LATE AND MISSED MATERIAL?

It is your responsibility to get the information before you are quizzed on it. That is best done by finding a peer (or better yet several peers!) who are in the class and reviewing their notes with them. If you have outstanding questions, please contact a TA! They are ready to help.

8. I WAS SICK AND MISSED A CLASS OR QUIZ

Appear with documentation from your Dean or doctor and the miss will not be counted against you!

9. WHAT IF I WILL MISS A CLASS FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS?

No problem. Email Paul and I will make sure that such a miss is not counted against you.

10. I NEEDED TO LEAVE TOWN FOR PERSONAL REASONS AND MISSED A CLASS OR QUIZ

Please see or email Paul far enough in advance that we can discuss how to handle the situation. I am understanding of personal issues and family commitments.

11. I LEFT TOWN FOR SOMETHING FUN AND MISSED A CLASS, QUIZ OR MOVIE.

This is your decision. No compensation on our part.

12. I LEFT TOWN FOR AN ORGANIZED EVENT, FOR ANOTHER ACADEMIC COMMITMENT, OR ORGANIZED SPORTING COMMITMENT.

Please see or email Paul far enough in advance that we can discuss how to handle the situation. I am understanding of and encourage such enriching commitments.

13. I'M GOING TO MISS A CLASS OR DISCUSSION SECTION, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Find a friend and get the notes. See and/or email your TAs if you don't understand something.

14. DO I NEED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION SECTIONS?

Yes. Discussions sections are an integral part of the class, attendance and participation in them counts toward your grade.

15. WHAT IF I NEED TO MISS MY DISCUSSION SECTION, CAN I COME TO ANOTHER?

Not usually. Here's why. Many discussion sections are filled at 16 people and we only have enough supplies to serve that many students. If you know ahead of time that another appointment will keep you from making your appointed section, then call or email your TA **AT LEAST A DAY AHEAD** to reschedule. If you show up unannounced, you will not be admitted. The burden is on you as a student to take responsibility.

16. WHERE DO I GET ANOTHER SYLABUS?

You can download one from the class web site (<http://uvm.edu/~pbierman/classes/ehaz>) or check the bulletin board outside Paul's office (307 Delehanty) or ask a TA!

17. HOW WILL YOU PEOPLE CALCULATE MY GRADE?

See "grading" on the class plan via the web site or your printed copy.

18. I NEED AN "A" IN THIS CLASS, WHAT DO I DO?

Come to every class. Do every reading. Come to every discussion section. Form a study group. Sit in the front of the room. Ask questions in class. Get to know us. Ask your faculty questions. Read extra material. Do not cheat; it's the best way not to get an A.

19. I FEEL LIKE I NEED EXTRA TIME ON QUIZES

If you feel you need extra time on quizzes consider contacting the UVM ACCESS center for testing and evaluation. If they document a learning disability, we will make whatever accommodations they suggest.

20. I HAVE DOCUMENTED LEARNING DISABILITIES, CAN YOU HELP?

We sure can, but only if we know! Please give us letters from ACCESS as soon as is possible. We can arrange for extra time on quizzes and a quiet space for you to take your quiz.

21. I'M NOT HAPPY WITH MY FINAL GRADE IN THE CLASS. I NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE IT.

After the semester is over, there is nothing we can do about your grade. Of course, there can be addition errors and we will check for these. The best way to have the grade you want is to work steadily all semester. Keep tabs on your performance by speaking frequently with your TA. Since there is no final, there is no way to change your grade substantially at the semester's end. Doing well in this class requires steady attention all semester long. There are no post-semester make up assignments or extra credits.

22. I NEED HELP!

Please, come see us! Check Matt's, Will's and Paul's office hours on the web. Send us emails. Stay after class and ask questions!