GEOG 5400 / 6400 Geography of Natural Hazards

1. Credit Hours:
   - Total credit hours: 3
   - Lecture: 3 hours

2. Texts or major resources:
   - Additional readings from academic journals will be assigned throughout the course (e.g., Natural Hazards; Natural Hazards Review; Environmental Hazards; Disaster Studies, Policy and Management; Mass Emergencies and Disasters).

3. Course Description:
   - Geography of natural hazards and their impacts on society.

4. Course Objectives:
   - Understand the causes and consequences of hazards on society over time and space.
   - Understand individual- and community-level responses to disasters (relief, recovery, reconstruction, and mitigation).
   - Understand the evolution and current status of hazards policy.
   - Identify the gaps in knowledge and policy in hazards management.
   - Examine common methods and technologies used in hazards mapping and analysis.

5. Course Content:
   - Weekly Lecture Schedule (Textbook Chapters)
     1. Hazards, risks and disasters (1)
     2. Disaster trends and patterns (2)
     3. Risk assessment and disaster management (3)
     4. Accepting disaster loss (4)
     5. Mitigating disaster loss (5)
     6. Earthquakes (6)
     7. Volcanoes (7)
     8. Severe storms and tornadoes (9)
     9. Hurricanes (9)
    10. Floods (11)
    11. Droughts (12)
    12. Biophysical hazards and epidemics (10)
    13. Technological hazards (13)
    14. Summary and implications for hazards research and disaster management (14)
    15. Final project presentations
    16. Final exam
6. Course Requirements/Evaluation:

- Final grades will be based on the following categories and relative weights:
  - **Undergraduates:**
    - Class assignments: 10%
    - Mid-term exam: 35%
    - Final exam: 35%
    - Final project: 20%
  - **Graduates:**
    - Class assignments: 10%
    - Mid-term exam: 30%
    - Final exam: 30%
    - Final project: 30%
- The class assignments will consist of short projects to be conducted as take-home exercises.
- The mid-term and final exams will cover the lecture material presented in class and any other materials assigned during the course (e.g., outside readings, films).
- The final project will consist of a written paper and a formal (in-class) presentation. Failure to complete the final project (e.g., unexcused absence on date designated for classroom presentations) will automatically result in a failing grade (“F”) in the course.
- Final grades will be based on a standard 10% scale relative to the total points possible in the course: A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%).

7. Course Policy Statements:

- **Make-Up Exams and Class Attendance**
  - The make-up exam and class attendance policy statements defined in the AU Tiger Cub Student Handbook will be adhered to in this course.
  - Make-up exams will be in the same format as the original exam.
- **Academic Honesty**
  - The Rules and Regulations on Student Academic Honesty Code detailed in the AU Tiger Cub Student Handbook will be adhered to in this course.
- **Students with Disabilities**
  - Students with disabilities who need specific accommodations for participating in this course are encouraged to contact The Program for Students with Disabilities (1244 Haley Center) for guidance on university services and accommodations.

8. Justification for Graduate Credit:

This course will require graduate students to integrate a diverse knowledge of hazards-related processes and issues with skills in advanced mapping technology to perform risk assessment and disaster management tasks. This experience will enhance the student’s ability to contribute to hazards management research and policy issues in the future. The background knowledge required of graduate students for this course includes environmental sciences, social sciences, and mapping skills. Graduate students will be required to conduct original research and to present their findings in a professional format at the end of the course.