

GEOL 308 Natural Hazards Lecture

Country Project

Forty percent of your grade in Geology 308 is based on your **digital presentation or written summary** of your Country Project. One needs to write an outline of their proposed research and submit electronically by **March 10th, NO LATER**. The proposal should include the following:

1. Indicate whether you will conduct an oral or a written report. You will not be able to change after this date. (Those in 308L will do both).
2. Country name, geographical region, HDI, population, and other background information. Include a map.
3. A brief explanation of the geologic setting (what makes the location of the country prone to extreme natural events?)
4. An identification of the natural disaster(s) that pose the greatest threat in your country.
5. A brief explanation of the types, years, and effects of prominent past natural disasters.
6. Current mitigation efforts in your country.
7. Citation of your sources (map, demographic information, newspaper reports, hazard mitigation reports, etc.).

I will grade this outline for spelling and grammar. The outline should be well-conceived and researched. I understand that this is not your final product, but a good outline will make future research more focused and productive. This is a narrative, not a bulleted list! Use topic sentences in each paragraph.

Written/Oral Presentations:

Both the written and the oral presentations should be original. I remind you of your commitment to academic honesty. Plagiarized work will result in an F grade and disciplinary action from the University. All research should be appropriately cited. Your reports (including figures, text, verbal communication, and calculations) should be your own work. It is not sufficient to change one or two words in a published sentence and use as your own! You need to absorb published information, and create, in your own words, a synthesis of the key points. This can be challenging. I encourage you to start early.

Presentations will be in class the last two weeks of the semester. Your presentation should be 10 minutes in length, with an additional 2 minutes for questions. This means about 10 – 15 slides maximum. Your presentation should be well thought out and rehearsed. You should memorize nearly your entire speech and practice it to friends to ensure clarity, flow, and that you are at the 10 minute time limit. I will cut you off if you go over 10 minutes. Your slides should be clearly organized with graphics that are visible to the audience. Avoid slides that are nothing but text! Text can be used for salient points or to highlight graphics, but your oral communication should be the main tool of communication. You are asked to incorporate what you have learned throughout the semester into your analysis of disasters in your country. This is your opportunity to tell a compelling story and to convince us that your proposed mitigation strategies would help reduce the risk of disaster in your country.

Written Reports are due Tuesday May 9th at 17:00. NO Exceptions!!! The written report should be a concise, organized, clearly written, well-argued report of the factors leading to 1-2 case study natural disasters in your country. These reports must include a well-conceived and justifiable outline of recommendations to reduce risk. You have 6-10 pages double spaced space (not including references). You are asked to incorporate what you have learned throughout the semester into your analysis of disasters in your country. You may include figures or tables from other studies, but you must cite your references appropriately. Any clever analysis of existing data or creation of new figures would strengthen your report.