

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:	FALL 2015	COURSE NO:	HISTORY 326
INSTRUCTOR:	TBA	COURSE NAME:	DISASTERS AND CATASTROPHES: SPECIAL TOPICS
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO:	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			
OFFICE HOURS: TBA			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine a variety of historical disasters and catastrophes, from ancient times to the current era. This course will explore the various aspects of these disasters and catastrophes and place them in their proper historical context. Main themes will include the views, attitudes, and outcomes, both perceived and actual, of these diverse historical events and circumstances.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and critically evaluate both primary and secondary sources. Also, use these analyses to make informed comments both in class and during 4th hour activities. These comments could be oral or written.
- Apply information gathering and research skills to the study of disasters and catastrophes, and as a foundation for self-directed life-long learning activities.
- Demonstrate relevant knowledge in seminars, exams, and the term paper.

COURSE WEBSITE:

A Moodle site will be created to support student activities, announcements and some 4th hour activities.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

A Reading Package will be available in the Capilano University Bookstore.

Storey, William K., and Towser Jones. *Writing History: A Guide for Canadian Students*. 3rd edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2011.

COURSE CONTENT:

Note: Please complete all the reading listed for the entire week before coming to class and be prepared to discuss and/or write about this material in class.

WEEK	LECTURE & READINGS
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction • Defining “Disasters” and “Catastrophes” • Determining the Causes and Identifying the Effects of Disasters and Catastrophes: Frameworks of Analysis in the Study of History
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Disasters and Catastrophes: the Eruptions of Mount Vesuvius (79) and Krakatoa (1883) Readings:
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Accidents Will Happen” Part One: the Frank Slide (1903) and the Halifax Explosion (1917) Readings:
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Catastrophe: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 Readings:
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Disasters (Part One): The Sinking of the <i>RMS Titanic</i> (1912) Readings:
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Disasters (Part Two): the Wartime Sinking of the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> (1945) Readings:
Week 7	Midterm Exam
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disastrous Industrial Accidents: the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire (1911) and the Bhopal Disaster (1984) Readings:
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically Significant Urban Fires: The Brooklyn Theatre Fire (1876), the Iroquois Theatre Fire (1903) and the Cocoanut Grove Nightclub Fire (1942) Readings:

Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Events: The 1955 Le Mans Race Disaster Readings:
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural Disasters: the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Failure (1940) and Vancouver's Second Narrows Bridge Collapse (1958) Readings:
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Modern Medical Debacle: Case Study of the Thalidomide Tragedy (late 1950s on) Readings:

Course content – continued

WEEK	LECTURE & READINGS
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Accidents Will Happen” Part Two: Civilian Nuclear Power Disasters at Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima Daiichi (2011) • Course and Final Exam Reviews Readings:
Week 14 & 15	Final Exam Period

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Research Paper: A research paper of 3000-4000 words, drawing upon course themes, readings, and independently researched materials. Topics and instructions will be distributed and discussed during the second day of class.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will evaluate students on their comprehension and understanding of the course material. It will cover all material from lectures, readings, fourth hour activities, and any audio-visual materials used in the course prior to this point.

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will cover all the material from lectures, readings, fourth hour activities, and any audio-visual materials used in the course.

Fourth Hour Activities: Information and directions related to “Fourth Hour” activities will be discussed during the first week of class.

Participation: Participation grades are based on several factors including proper preparation for class; active and useful participation in discussions both formal and informal of readings; on attitude to the class, towards the material, and towards others. “Make-ups” are not available for missed activities counting towards your participation grade. Details related to the group discussions will be announced and discussed in class.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Participation	10%
Fourth Hour Activities	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%
	100%

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance:

In essence, it is virtually impossible to do well if you do not attend. Those students frequently absent from class will be at a considerable disadvantage, as lectures may draw on but will not generally duplicate the text or readings. Should you miss a class, understand that it is your responsibility to make yourself aware of all the material covered during the class.

Late Essay Assignments:

Late essay provisions will be included with the essay directions.

Missed Exams:

Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage:

It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades:

Given at the discretion of the instructor. These are generally granted only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices:

No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures

Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.