Weather Hazards and Society

MAIN CLASS
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences 141
Natural Hazards of Weather

LINKED CLASS
Environmental Studies 112
Environmental Studies: The Social Perspective

Geoscience 140
Natural Hazards and Disasters

Natural hazards affect societal infrastructure, the economy, and people’s lives. The prediction of extreme events and the need to increase societal resilience to these events has become a national priority in the aftermath of such events as Hurricanes Katrina, Matthew, Sandy, Rita and Harvey; the April 2011 Tornado Super outbreak; volcanic eruptions such as Mount St. Helens in 1980, as well as seasonal events such as wildfires. There is a clear societal need to better understand and mitigate the risks posed to the United States by these hazards.

The main seminar in this FIG, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences 141: “Natural Hazards of Weather,” will discuss issues involving current global weather hazards: including prediction, and disaster resilience, resistance, and risk reduction. We will learn that weather forecasters must be able to convey the forecast and the probabilistic nature of the prediction in an effective manner. This requires that the public must not only understand the forecast but in many cases must be made to respond. From this class, you will learn key issues affecting hazardous weather occurrence in a changing climate, hazardous weather prediction, the science behind the dissemination of warnings, and societal response to weather hazards. In addition, you will learn the breadth of subject areas that you should master to pursue careers in the wide range of opportunities these problems present.

Environmental Studies 112: “Environmental Studies: The Social Perspective” — This class examines the importance of social factors in the generation and resolution of complex environmental problems with an interdisciplinary perspective. Comparison of specific communities in the more and less developed areas of the world.

Geoscience 140: “Natural Hazards and Disasters” — An exploration of the science behind natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. Why, where, and when do these events occur, and why are some predictable but others are not? The class will also address hazard assessment, forecasting, and mitigation to lessen their impact on society.
Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here’s what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

• You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.

• After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.

• Wednesday, September 11, 2019 is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.

• Friday, September 13, 2019 is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.