Description:
This course gives an introduction to environmental perils and their impact on everyday life. We explore how geological processes such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions work and how they change our environment. We explore the mechanisms of meteorological processes and the conditions under which extreme weather such as major storms, tornadoes and hurricanes form. We cannot prevent these conditions but we can learn how to monitor them and take precautionary measures. The discussion of extreme weather also includes the causes and consequences of floods, droughts and the conditions that lead to devastating wildfires. Global climate changes also have a large impact on the biosphere. These can be short-term events such as El Niño, or long-term such as major ice ages. We discuss causes of mass extinctions throughout Earth’s history. Finally, we explore the involvement of human activity in the cause and prevention of natural disasters.

Class Website, lecture schedule and lecture notes:
https://geowiki.ucsd.edu/sio15

The class website provides: lecture schedule and material, announcements, handouts for in-class note-taking. The class website provides short videos on basic material that will not be covered in the lectures but are nevertheless material covered by the weekly for-credit tests. The class website also provided links to not-for-credit self-test quizzes for learning purposes. And finally, the class website provides videos to help complete the homework assignments.

Text Book:
"Exploring Natural Disasters: Natural Processes and Human Impacts" by Gabi Laske (preliminary edition). The course material presented on the class website follows the book, while classroom lectures will concentrate on recent events. The course book should be considered mandatory and is particularly helpful for freshmen and non-native English speaking students but also for students who are looking for informative reading.

Lectures – Canvas:
Lectures are held by Prof. Gabi Laske
Tu, Th 2:00 – 3:20pm

Lectures will occur through synchronous Zoom sessions. Info and access will be given through the Canvas course site. The Zoom lectures will be recorded for asynchronous learning.
Contact Information:
Gabi Laske (858) 534-8774, glaske@ucsd.edu, Canvas
Email is the best way to communicate. Please add "SIO15" to your subject lines, using your UCSD email account and sign with your full name.

Teaching Assistants:
Four teaching assistants will help us navigate through the quarter. They will help moderate the lectures. They will also be responsible for grading the homeworks.

Homeworks and tests:
Grades are based on weekly homeworks and tests. The homeworks will include an assignment completed during a virtual field trip to the SIO beach near the end of October. No late homework will be accepted.

Not-for-credit self-tests accessible through the class website will not be monitored and are for studying purposes only.

Weekly for-credit tests will be posted through Canvas. They are to be completed every Friday. Weekly tests are based on book chapters, lecture notes, short videos and homeworks. In-class polling will be done through Zoom.

The grade scale is posted on the class website.

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**Gradescope:**
Please register at Gradescope.com using your full name, UCSD student ID and UCSD email address. Use course entry code 9E3575. Registration will ensure that your assignments and tests are properly graded, that you receive the credit and that you can check your answers.

**Field Trips:**
There will be a virtual field trip to the SIO Beach. Please check the class website for info. This trip is a MANDATORY homework assignment.

**Academic Integrity:**
Students are encouraged to work together on homeworaks but each student must write a unique homework, i.e. no copying allowed. Tests are open-book but must be taken in by each student in isolation. Homeworks and tests in violation of UCSD policy on academic integrity will receive 0 points.

**Submit your personal experience:**
Natural disasters may have affected many of us. You are encouraged to discuss these in the weekly discussion sessions. In addition, you can submit stories and photos to the course website (see class website for details).