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GEOG 2272 – Natural Hazards

Natural Disaster Summary¹

Assignment Overview

The Natural Disaster Summary is worth **20%** of your final grade (3 summaries x 6.7% = 20%). Each summary will consist of information detailing one (1) natural disaster (based on the United Nations definition) that occurred worldwide **in the past 5 years**.

A marking rubric will be available on UM Learn.

****All work is to be completed independently ****

Information on academic integrity available below.

Due Dates

| Disaster Summary | Due Date | Value |
|--|----------|-------|
| Disaster Summary #1 - earthquake or tsunami | Oct. 16 | 6.7% |
| Disaster Summary #2 - volcanic eruption, flooding, or mass wasting event | Nov. 20 | 6.7% |
| Disaster Summary #3 - hurricane or severe weather event | Dec. 11 | 6.7% |

- Submit digital copy of assignment in a word or .pdf format through “Assignment Submission” on UM Learn.
- Assignments are due by 4:00 PM CST on the due date. Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day.

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Assignment Objectives

1. Develop critical thinking skills by:

- identifying natural disasters using the United Nations Criteria (<http://www.un-spider.org/node/7661>);

- developing reasonable mitigation measures that could reduce the impact of the natural hazard.

2. Develop information literacy and research skills by:

- summarizing the basic properties of each selected natural disaster event
- visually communicating the spatial and temporal relationships of individual natural disaster events using appropriate academic visuals such as graphs, maps, tables, graphics, and photos, etc.
- demonstrating a number of academic writing skills such as summarizing information, writing in an academic tone, using a modified APA referencing system
- finding, accessing, and assessing the content of credible information sources and appropriately and effectively incorporating these sources into your natural disaster summary.

3. Think like a geographer by:

- using concepts and terms learned in class and incorporate them into your disaster summary to showcase your mastery of the course material and geographic concepts.

Natural Disaster Summary Format

One of the major challenges of this assignment is the skill of summarizing a large amount of information into a limit amount of space. The majority of the information should be paraphrased. Direct quotations should only be used when preserving the original wording is critical to communicating the information, and as such, should be used rarely, if at all. In addition to grammatically correct sentences and paragraphs, consider using tables and bullets to summarize information concisely. Ensure readability by using a reasonable font size (11 - 12-point font) and margins between 0.75 - 1 inch to ensure the assignment is readable and flows well. Ten percent (10%) of the natural disaster summary grade will be based on the assignment format (modified APA, appearance, readability).

Include the following sections in your natural disaster summary:

1. **Title Page** (1 page): Include title of assignment and disaster, name, course, date, Running Head and page number (in APA format)
2. **Introduction** (150-500 words): Give a brief overview of the natural disaster and identify what information you are about to discuss in your summary. Justify that the disaster you have chosen fits with the United Nations Criteria

- **Define significant** terms used throughout the summary using credible academic sources. The relevance and significance of these definitions with respect to the understanding of natural hazards and disasters should be discussed.
 - Examples of significant terms: Natural Hazard, Disaster, Mitigation, Vulnerability, Risk; United Nations criteria for a disaster, etc.
 - All information must be properly and thoroughly referenced in a modified APA format using a combination of superscript numbers in the text (in numerical order in which the source was first used) and end notes (after the conclusion) in numerical order corresponding to the in-text citations
3. **Disaster summary** (1 page): Each natural disaster summary must be one page, single spaced (including tables and diagrams). The following information should be included in your single page summary of each natural disaster:
- a) **Type of Natural Hazard:**
 - Identify the natural hazard that has caused the disaster. Be specific (i.e. hurricane, earthquake, eruption, landslide, flood etc.).
 - Hazards are commonly linked to each other and to the environment in which they occur. Indicate linkages among multiple hazards (if applicable).
 - b) **Location of the Natural Disaster:**
 - Specific location (County, City, State/Province, Country, Lat./Long etc.).
 - Include and refer to a map (with caption and reference in a modified APA format)
 - c) **Beginning and end dates and times of the hazard:**
 - Include beginning and end dates of any natural hazards (including linkages, if any, among hazards)
 - The hazard will usually have specific beginning and end dates
 - d) **Beginning and end dates of the disaster:**
 - Beginning and end dates for the disaster may not be as discreet/evident as the hazard
 - If the disaster is ongoing, then indicate that it is still ongoing i.e. January 30, 2019 to present
 - e) **A description of the natural disaster and a short statement as to the cause**
 - Incorporate terms used in class
 - Should be a paragraph in length
 - f) **The total number of human injuries and casualties**
 - Different sources may provide different numbers. If this is the case, then provide a range and the corresponding references. i.e. Human casualties: 1,000¹ – 1,500²
 - g) **The total economic loss:**
 - Identify the dollar amount and currency (if available)
 - Alternatively, and or additionally, provide information on such things as the number of buildings damaged/destroyed, infrastructure damaged/destroyed, the

number of people affected (displaced and homeless as a result), the effect on industries such as farming, fishing, tourisms etc.

h) Natural Disaster Timeline

- What happened and when?
- How did the disaster change temporally? Spatially?

4. Conclusion and Mitigation (200-500 words)

- **Summarize the key findings.** Identify what could have been done to prevent or reduce the economic damage and number of injuries/casualties for each natural disaster. This is where you would incorporate peer reviewed literature into your assignment. If you create an original mitigation statement, it will be strengthened by including natural disasters which have been mitigated using similar techniques or similarly proposed mitigation strategies. Use the “Approaches to Mitigation & Adaptation” framework as outlined in your textbook to organize this section.

5. References

- All information (including introduction, disaster summaries and conclusion) must be accurately and thoroughly referenced in a modified APA format (in-text superscript numbers with corresponding endnotes in the references listed in numerical order).
- As a guideline, an “A” for this type of assignment will typically have between 10-12 references for each disaster summary. Keep in mind that using 10-12 references will not guarantee that the assignment is worthy of an “A” as there are many criteria being used to assess this assignment. **See marking rubric** on UM Learn

Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba’s policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2018-2019, General Academic Regulations <http://bit.ly/2Dz50DX>

Avoiding Plagiarism: https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/ld.php?content_id=28463232

APA Style Guide: <https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=298394>

Paraphrasing: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/media/Paraphrasing.pdf>

Useful Websites

EM-DAT – The International Disaster Database: <https://www.emdat.be>

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR): <https://www.unisdr.org>

United Nations , Office for Outerspace Affairs: <http://www.un-spider.org/risks-and-disasters>

Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/about>

USGS – Natural Hazards: <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/natural-hazards>

Weather, Climate and Hazards: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather.html>

Public Safety Canada – Natural Hazards of Canada - <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/ntrl-hzrds/index-en.aspx>

Government of Canada - Get Prepared: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

NASA – Earth Observatory: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>

References

1. **Nelson, S. A. (2011).** Disaster Summary Fall 2011. Retrieved September 11, 2020, from http://www.tulane.edu/~sanelson/Natural_Disasters/disastersummary.htm



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