Dear Students in GEOL-104-15305:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the wonderful world of Natural Disasters, Geology 104. Welcome to Geology 104, Natural Disasters. This class examines the earth processes, forces, and systems that cause natural disasters, including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, mass extinction, and landslides. It is my hope that through this class each of you will develop an appreciation for these forces of nature, or at the very least to learn how to best prepare and protect yourself from these disasters. This course will provide background on these disasters, the forces and processes that create these disasters and also shape our earth and our environment. It is my hope that through this class each of you will develop an appreciation for the world around you. The following information will give you the basic overview of this class. This course is worth 3 units and it is CSU/UC transferable. This is a short term class lasting only 5 weeks from 1/5/2015-2/7/2015. I really want this to be an enjoyable and successful class for each of you. To help facilitate that goal, the easiest way to contact me if you have any questions or concerns is through email. I will usually respond within 24 hours. I can be reached at Jenni.Pavia@canyons.edu. Our online "classroom" or Course Management System will be Blackboard 9.1; you can use the link that I have enclosed here: https://bb9.canyons.edu. The course will be available on Monday, January 5th, 2015.

To be able to log in to blackboard you will need your student id number and your password. If you do not remember or were not given a password please contact Technical Support. After you log in for the first time it is recommended that you change the password to something that you will remember. If you have any problems using blackboard or logging in please contact technical support at Email: bbsupport@canyons.edu, Phone Number: 661-362-3344. They are available for questions Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

Once you have logged in to Blackboard and click on our class under my institution you will be directed to the homepage where you will be able to see announcements, course documents, assignments, and discussion boards. If you run into any problems accessing the material you can send me an email through blackboard or through Jenni.Pavia@canyons.edu . This class is a hybrid, so you should expect to put in about 20 hours a week. Due dates can be found in the syllabus within the course documents. The textbook that we will be using for our class will be: Text: Natural Disasters 9th edition by Patrick L. Abbott, ISBN: 0078022878

Copyright year: 2014 This class is compliant with section 508, meaning that is designed to be accessible to everyone. For more information on section 508 please go the Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS) Department website. http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dsp/public/default.asp. If you need to access the resources of DSPS please use the contact information below which can also be found on the department website as well.

Disabled Students Programs and Services Staff: Phone: (661) 362-3341 or TTY: (661) 362-3726

For the students that have not taken an hybrid class before, I realize that at first it may seem intimidating or overwhelming, but I am sure that with time and some patience that you will get the hang of it. If you are unsure of whether or not a hybrid class is the right format for you I would like you to go to the following sites:
The Sierra College Online Readiness Quiz: http://lrc.sierra.cc.ca.us/dl/survey/OL-student-assess.html

"Are you ready?" An online student guide created by Sierra College: http://lrc.sierracollege.edu/dl/OnlineClasses/HandoutAreYouReady.pdf

I am really looking forward to getting to know each of you. Finally I would just like to say that I am so glad that you are taking my class, and I hope my enthusiasm for geology will help you enjoy this class. I am looking forward to working with each of you. Geology rocks!

Best wishes,

Professor Jenni Pavia