

**Adaptation and Impacts Research Group (AIRG), Meteorological Service Canada
Environment Canada**

Natural Hazards and Natural Disasters

Course Outline:

The focus of this course will be on the risk to society from natural hazards and disasters, and how society adapts to those risks. An interdisciplinary and mainly social science approach will be taken, with a developing world perspective with some emphasis on the Scandinavian context. A variety of natural hazards (hydro-meteorological and geological hazards) will be examined.

Topics will include:

- Hazards, vulnerability and risks and hazards model
- Effects of climate change and variability on hazards and risk
- Case Studies
- Adaptation and coping strategies and mainstreaming
- National and international initiatives to enhance adaptation and mainstreaming
- Adaptive capacity and Resilience

The course will consist of lectures, round table discussion, critiques by students on journal articles selected in consultation with the course instructor, and the examination of case studies.

Students can expect to average 4 hours of reading per week in addition to class time.

Texts:

Text Book: At Risk (by B.Wisner, P. Blaike, T.Cannon and I. Davis), ISBN: 0-415-252164

Other Selected readings to be handed out by the instructor

Grading:

Research paper proposal	10%
Research paper	40%
Critique	25%
Take Home Quiz	25%

Total 100%