**Geographic Processes: ISP (Independent Study Project)**

The purpose of the ISP is to give students the opportunity to focus on, and investigate, the powerful sources and nature of energy flows within the spheres of the Earth, and the evolving relationship between the planet and its people. The report completed in this activity will build upon research and writing skills developed throughout the activities upon which student achievement for this course has been assessed and evaluated. As well, students must communicate their findings in two media platforms, a written essay, and a class presentation.

**The Scenario:**

You are an expert on a particular natural hazard (e.g. earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides, shoreline erosion, flooding). Government officials in an area or country prone to this particular natural hazard have hired you to spend some time in their area investigating the hazard from a local perspective. The government officials require you to write a report providing background information about the hazard, advice on steps to be taken (both long-term and short-term) to prepare for a recurrence of the hazard, and advice on how to deal with the aftermath of a disaster.

**The Process**:

1. **Topic/Question Selection:**

a) **Choose a particular hazard and the location investigated** (What is the hazard you are focusing on, and why have you chosen this geographic region to conduct your investigation? Does this area have a relevant history of this type of hazardous activity?

b) Generate a list of possible sources of information.

1. **Locate and Record Information:**
2. Library or online research
3. **Synthesis:**
4. Organize an essay outline
5. Compulsory conference with teacher
6. Write a tentative thesis AND directional statement of no less than 750 words, and no more than 1,000 that includes the following:
   1. A clear identification of the particular hazard and the location investigated;
   2. An identification and description of the mechanisms causing the hazards at this location;
   3. Advice on preparation, both long-term, and short-term, for a possible disaster;
   4. Advice on the necessary steps to deal with the aftermath of a disaster;
   5. An evaluation of the impact of this hazard on the local people and their activities;
   6. A hand-drawn or tech generated image/visual (e.g. graph, diagram, picture, cross-section, map) that supports and enhances the written report.
   7. A bibliography
7. **Communicate:**
8. **Essay** – prepare an essay of about 5 pages, double-spaced, times new roman, 12 pt. font. It must be thesis based and written in full.
9. **You MUST include geographic data, maps, charts, and/or other visuals to support your essay**.
10. **Reference List –** All research must be properly referenced! Your essay must include proper **in-text citations** and a complete **reference list**. Please follow the **MLA** referencing style (to be discussed in class). DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!
11. **Presentation –** Each person will have about 10-15 minutes to present to the class. Each person must have an *interactive* presentation. **(Reading an essay is NOT an option)** (ex: presentation with poster, presentation with PowerPoint or Prezi, a video you created, a rant, a rap, etc…be creative, but aim for 10-15 mins.)

**You do NOT have to include all of the information given in your essay. Choose the most important generalization, the most interesting examples, and the most compelling evidence. Choose your topic carefully. Choose a topic that interests you! Presentations will be on 09th November 2018, as well as the due date for the written essay.**

Success is often related to getting an early start, to keeping complete records of your research and other progress, and to speaking with your teacher when issues arise. Missing classes devoted to the ISP could be a large problem and is not advised.

Percentage of final mark = 15%

More than any other single activity we do in this course, writing this research essay will help prepare you for the independent work that you will be responsible for in University or College.

**Possible Hazards**: (You may choose another topic, **if approved by the teacher**).

Earthquakes Hurricanes

Volcanoes Tornadoes

Tsunamis Avalanches

Wildfires Flooding (river or coastal)

Landslides Erosion (coastal)