

University of Western Ontario  
Department of Geography  
**GEOG 2152F: Geography of Hazards**  
Fall 2012

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**Instructor:** Mark Moscicki

**Lectures:** Wed 2:30 – 5:20 pm  
UCC 56

**E-mail:** mmoscic@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Thu 2:00 – 3:00 pm  
SSC 2223

**Overview:**

The course is a survey of the methods and models used to understand human responses to hazards. The tradition of hazards research in geography will be reviewed particularly through the lens of social science. The course will examine both natural and technological hazards and the models for understanding human influences on and responses to hazards.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of this course are to provide students with:

- an introduction to social science theories of hazards geography and case examples of disasters
- recognition of the risks to humans and the environment caused by hazardous events
- knowledge of hazard planning and management solutions
- enhanced geographical problem solving skills, map reading abilities, and geographic awareness

**Readings:**

A list of readings will be posted on the course website.

**Assessment:**

<i>Assessment Method</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Discussion Questions	Weekly	10%
In-Class Activities	Weekly	8%
Midterm Exam	Oct 24	22%
Assignment	Nov 21	20%
Final Exam	TBA	40%

There are 10 discussion questions to be answered online within your discussion group. Questions are designed to encourage you to think critically about issues related to the risks from hazards and to share thoughts and ideas among your group members. Answers to each question are due on Tuesdays at 11:55 pm. The first question will be posted on Sep 19<sup>th</sup>.

More details about the in-class activities and the assignment will be provided throughout the semester. The midterm exam will cover material studied from Sep 12<sup>th</sup> through Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. The final exam is cumulative and will thus cover material studied from the entire course, but weighted toward material studied in the second half. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and short answer questions.

**Schedule:**

<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Sep 12	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	Sep 19	Disaster and Risk Research
3	Sep 26	Models of Human Response
4	Oct 3	Risk and Culture
		Communicating Risk
5	Oct 10	Precautionary Principle
		Scientific Uncertainty
6	Oct 17	Adaptations to Environmental Change
	Oct 24	Midterm Exam
7	Oct 31	Geophysical Hazards
8	Nov 7	Technological Hazards
9	Nov 14	Hazard Management Strategies
10	Nov 21	Disease and Pandemics
11	Nov 28	Pest Management
		Chemical Hazards
12	Dec 5	Pollution
		Social Unrest

**Additional Statements:**Prerequisites:

Unless you have a proper prerequisite for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. There will be no adjustment to your fees and this decision may not be appealed.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offense at this link:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

### Accommodation Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed exams or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home faculty and provide documentation. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed discussion questions must notify the instructor immediately. For the University of Western Ontario policy on accommodation for medical illness and a downloadable Student Medical Certificate, see this link:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

### Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices other than calculators will be permitted during examinations.

### Commitment to Accessibility:

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at the university. Please contact me if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make the course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

### Support Services:

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>