

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Geography  
**GEOG 2152F: Geography of Hazards**  
Fall 2018

---

## 1. Course Information

### *Class Information*

**Location:** Natural Sciences Centre 145  
**Time:** Mondays 3:30 – 6:20 PM

### *Contact Information*

**Instructor:** Mark Moscicki  
**Office:** SSC 2219  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 PM  
**E-mail:** mmoscic@uwo.ca

## 2. Calendar Description

A survey of the methods and models used to understand human responses to hazards. The course reviews the rich tradition of hazards research in geography, particularly through the lens of social science. The course will include discussion of both natural hazards and technological hazards as examples.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course weight  
Antirequisite: The former GEOG 2152A/B  
Prerequisite: None

## 3. Readings

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

## 4. Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to provide students with:

- an introduction to social science theories of hazard responses
- recognition of the risks to people and the environment caused by hazardous events
- knowledge of hazard planning and management solutions
- enhanced geographical problem solving skills
- improved map reading abilities and geographic awareness

## 5. Schedule

<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Sep 10	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	Sep 17	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
		<i>Video: Japan Tsunami</i>
3	Sep 24	Tsunamis
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
		Models of Human Response
4	Oct 1	Risk and Culture
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
		Landslides
5	Oct 8	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Discussion I</i>
6	Oct 22	<i>Video: Hurricane Katrina</i>
		Human-Environment Relations
		<i>Assignment 5: Environmental Change</i>
	Oct 29	Midterm Exam
7	Nov 5	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 6: Hurricane Tracking</i>
8	Nov 12	Volcanoes
		<i>Assignment 7: Discussion II</i>
		<i>Video: Mt. St. Helens</i>
9	Nov 19	Technological Hazards
		<i>Assignment 8: Groundwater Contamination</i>
		Meteorite Impacts
10	Nov 26	<i>Video: Chelyabinsk Meteor</i>
		<i>Assignment 9: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
		Snow Avalanches
11	Dec 3	Wildfires
		<i>Assignment 10: Discussion III</i>
		<i>Video: Firewars</i>

## 6. Evaluation

Students are responsible for material covered in lectures as well as the assigned readings. The assignments and activities are practical, interactive applications of course content and will be completed during class time. Detailed information about the essay will be provided early in the semester. The midterm exam will cover material studied from Sep 10 through Oct 22. The final exam is cumulative but heavily weighted toward material studied in the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

<i>Component</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Assignments	Weekly	10%
Activities	Weekly	5%
Midterm Exam	Oct 29	30%
Essay	Nov 19	20%
Final Exam	TBA	35%

## 7. Missed Assessments

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed assessments worth 10% or more of the course grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department for these types of assessments. For missed assessments worth less than 10% of the course grade, documentation will also be required and the instructor may grant an accommodation.

For the university's policy on accommodation for medical illness and a downloadable student medical certificate please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#).

## 8. Make-up Examinations

A make-up exam will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to an Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. Otherwise, a grade of zero on the exam will be assigned. The format and content of make-up exams may differ substantially from the originally scheduled exam.

## 9. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during exams.

## 10. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [scholastic offence](#). The course essay may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the university for the detection of plagiarism. All essays submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer graded multiple choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## 11. Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the instructor 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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding [accommodated exams](#) is available. More information about [accessibility](#) is available as well.

## 12. Medical Issues

The university recognizes that a student's ability to meet academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the university's policy on [medical accommodation](#); this site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. A counsellor will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact the instructor to determine a new due date for the assessment. Students must see an [academic counsellor](#) and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for a specific accommodation.

## 13. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources at Western to assist you. Please visit the university's [Health and Wellness](#) site for more information on mental health resources.

## **14. Support Sites**

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

## **15. Important Dates**

Sep 6: Classes resume

Sep 14: Last day to add a full course or a first term half course

Oct 8: Thanksgiving Day

Oct 9-13: Fall Reading Week (no classes; department office open)

Nov 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

Nov 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

Dec 7: Classes end

Dec 8-9: Study days

Dec 10-21: Examination period

Dec 21: Fall term ends