

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Geography  
**GEOG 2152G: Geography of Hazards**  
Winter 2019

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## 1. Course Information

### *Class Information*

**Location:** University Community Centre 146  
**Time:** Thursdays 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM

### *Contact Information*

**Instructor:** Mark Moscicki  
**Office:** SSC 2219  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:00 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	Jan 10	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	Jan 17	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
		<i>Video: Japan Tsunami</i>
3	Jan 24	Tsunamis
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
		Models of Human Response
4	Jan 31	Risk and Culture
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
		Landslides
5	Feb 7	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Discussion I</i>
6	Feb 14	<i>Video: Hurricane Katrina</i>
		Human-Environment Relations
		<i>Assignment 5: Environmental Change</i>
	Feb 28	Midterm Exam
7	Mar 7	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 6: Hurricane Tracking</i>
8	Mar 14	Volcanoes
		<i>Assignment 7: Discussion II</i>
		<i>Video: Mt. St. Helens</i>
9	Mar 21	Technological Hazards
		<i>Assignment 8: Groundwater Contamination</i>
		Meteorite Impacts
10	Mar 28	<i>Video: Chelyabinsk Meteor</i>
		<i>Assignment 9: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
		Snow Avalanches
11	Apr 4	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 Jan 10 through Feb 14. 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	Feb 28	30%
Essay	Mar 21	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 for these types of assessments. For missed assessments worth less than 10% of the course grade, documentation should be provided directly to the instructor.

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 if approved documentation has been provided to an Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the originally scheduled exam. Otherwise, a grade of zero on the exam will be assigned. The content of make-up exams will differ from the originally scheduled exam.

## 9. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be permitted 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 is 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.

For assessments that are completed in pairs, each student must write their own identifying information (name, student number, and signature). Writing someone else's identifying information is an offense; any student who has been found to have done this will be given a grade of zero on the assessment.

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 Student Accessibility Services (SAS) 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 if the missed assessment is worth at least 10% of the course grade. In these situations, the counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not an 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 such an 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**

Jan 7: Classes resume

Jan 15: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

Feb 18: Family Day

Feb 19-22: Winter Reading Week (no classes; department office open)

Mar 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Apr 9: Classes end

Apr 10: Study day

Apr 11-30: Examination period

Apr 19: Good Friday

Apr 21: Easter Sunday

Apr 30: Winter term ends