

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Geography and Environment
GEOG 2152G: Geography of Hazards
Winter 2021

1. Technical Requirements

Stable internet connection, computer (desktop or laptop)

2. Course Information

Delivery Mode: Online asynchronous

Instructor: Mark Moscicki

Office: SSC 2219

Office Hours: By appointment (in-person or virtual)

E-mail: mmoscic@uwo.ca

3. 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

4. Readings

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

5. Course Format

A learning module will be posted weekly according to the schedule (see Section 7).

All course material will be posted to [OWL](#). Any changes will be indicated on the course OWL site and students will be informed.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Information about evaluating internet speed can be found [here](#).

Assistance is available from the [OWL Help site](#) or the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). Assistance is also available by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

6. Learning Outcomes

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

7. Schedule

<i>Module</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Jan 12	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	Jan 19	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
3	Jan 26	Tsunamis
		Models of Human Response
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
4	Feb 2	Risk and Culture
		Landslides
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
5	Feb 9	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Hurricane Tracking</i>
	Feb 23	Midterm Exam
6	Mar 2	Coastal Hazards
		<i>Assignment 5: Shoreline Properties</i>
7	Mar 9	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 6: Earthquakes</i>
8	Mar 16	Volcanoes
		<i>Assignment 7: Volcanic Eruptions</i>
9	Mar 23	Technological Hazards
		Pandemics
10	Mar 30	Snow Avalanches
		Meteorite Impacts
		<i>Assignment 8: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
11	Apr 6	Wildfires

8. Evaluation

<i>Component</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Discussion Questions	Weekly	5%
Assignments	Weekly	16%
Review Quizzes	Weekly	11%
Midterm Exam	Feb 23, 1:00 PM	18%
Essay	Mar 19	16%
Final Exam	TBA	34%

Students are responsible for material covered in lessons as well as readings and videos. Discussion questions are designed to encourage you to think critically about issues related to the risks from hazards and to share thoughts and ideas with others. Assignments are practical, problem solving based applications of course content. Review quizzes are designed to assess your comprehension of concepts studied in that lesson. Detailed information about the essay will be provided early in the semester. The midterm test will cover material studied from Jan 12 through Feb 9; it is timed and will be completed in an online format. The final exam will cover material studied from the entire course, but heavily weighted toward material studied in the second half. Exams will consist of a variety of question types.

Late Assessments

Assessments submitted late without submission of a self-reported absence will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day. An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class.

Course Grades

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. You are responsible for your grades in the course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Any Missed Assessments

Students will have up to 2 opportunities during the regular academic year to use an online portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the end of the period of self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (December and April)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate ground for the absence in question. Students should contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information.

Students should also note that instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. *All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's home faculty.*

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

[Student Medical Certificate](#)

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the instructor and an academic counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10. 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 originally scheduled exam and students must notify the instructor of the absence 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.

11. 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](#).

All work in this course must be completed individually. Sharing answers over internet message boards is an offence. Students found to be doing this are subject to disciplinary measures.

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.

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.

12. Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment 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.

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 Centre](#)

15. Important Dates

Jan 11: Classes resume

Jan 19: Last day to add a second term half course

Feb 15: Family Day

Feb 16-19: Winter Reading Week (no classes; department office open)

Mar 15: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty

Apr 2: Good Friday

Apr 12: Classes end

Apr 14-30: Examination period