







## GEOG 3432B

### Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

### 1. Technical Requirements

-  Stable internet connection
-  Laptop or computer
-  Zoom application installed
-  Working microphone
-  Working webcam

Recommended technical specifications: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html> Western Zoom webpage, including privacy information: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>.

### 2. Course Information



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online	Mondays	Tutorial 1: 2:30 – 3:30 Tutorial 2: 3:30 – 4:30

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below and can also be found in the Course Overview section on OWL.

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 13-21	April 12	April 13	April 14-30

\* January 19, 2021: Last day to add a second-term half course

March, 2021: Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Joshua Tobias	<a href="mailto:jtobias2@uwo.ca">jtobias2@uwo.ca</a>	Thursdays 6-7pm Fridays 10-11am

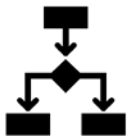
Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Evans Batung	<a href="mailto:ebatung@uwo.ca">ebatung@uwo.ca</a>	
Lindsay Brazeau	<a href="mailto:lbrazea3@uwo.ca">lbrazea3@uwo.ca</a>	



- Office hours will be held [remotely using Zoom (see days/times above)
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign Up on OWL
- Group drop-in style sessions will be organized during the designated tutorials and can be accommodated upon request.

### 3. Calendar Description

In this course, we will explore the relationship between human health and exposure to environmental hazards. We seek to increase our awareness of the various mechanisms through which environmental hazards impact the health of human populations. In doing so, we will place a particular emphasis on growing our understanding of: approaches to the study of environmental hazards and human health; the intersections of health and environmental policies; sources of exposure (water, air, soil, indoor, industrial, natural) environmental racism and activism; global and local issues.



**Course Prerequisite(s):** There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students are strongly encouraged to draw upon knowledge and skills gained through theoretically related courses, such as: Geography 1400 (Introduction to the Human Environment); Geography 2152 (Geography of Hazards); Geography 2160 (Healthy Cities); Geography 2430 (Public Health and Environment); Geography 3250 (Social Science Research Methods in Geography) Geography 3431 (Geography of Health and Health Care), etc.

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### 4. Textbook

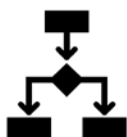


There is no required textbook for this course. Assigned materials (e.g. readings, videos) accompanying each module as well as certain tutorial sessions are included within the readings section of the relevant module. Please review materials in advance of tutorials as these readings will form the basis of our discussion.

## 5. Course Objectives and Format

This is a lecture-based course that will emphasise theoretical and applied concepts through readings, lecture and discussion. We will also be placing a particular emphasis upon gaining practical and applicable skills used daily by those actively working in this area. Teaching methods include documentary and film, guest visits, student discussion and participation. Most of the substantive material is covered within each module and delivered by Professor Tobias. The tutorial shall be reserved for case studies as well as introduction and take-up of assignments, including time to discuss and practice skills related to writing, referencing, working in groups, delivering presentations, and other topics as they emerge.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous Tutorials	Mondays	Tutorial 1: 2:30 – 3:30 Tutorial 2: 3:30 – 4:30	Weekly
Virtual asynchronous Lectures	N/A	Average 90 Minutes	Weekly



- Asynchronous pre-work (lectures) can be completed at your own pace and will be made available weekly.
- Attendance at synchronous sessions (tutorial) is required and contributes towards your final grade. If you are expecting to miss tutorial please provide a minimum of 24 hours notice to your Teaching Assistant.
- Closed captioning will be provided on audio or video recordings

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

## 6. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:



- Describe the complex relationships between environmental hazards and human health;
- Critically analyze, compare, and contrast environmental hazards and human health research and policy;
- Apply practical approaches to the study of environmental hazards and human health problems.

## 7. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic	Work Due
Week 1 January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to the Class, see overview section on OWL	Introduction and Review	
Week 2 January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Module 1: Key Concepts – Environment, Risk, and Health.	Group Project Discussion, Group Formation, Topic Selection	
Week 3 January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Module 2: Approaches to Understanding.	Group Work: Project Scoping	
Week 4 February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Module 3: Environmental and Health Policy Part 1	Library Activity: Searching Media Databases	Project Scoping Due
Week 5 February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Module 4: Environmental and Health Policy Part 2	Group Activity: Policy Blitz	Briefing Note Submission Date 1
<b>February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reading Week</b>		
Week 6 February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Module 5: Risk from Industry	Case Study: Canada’s Chemical Valley	
Week 7 March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Module 6: Indoor Environments	Case Study: Built Environments and Health	
Week 8 March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Module 7: Workplace Health	Group Meetings + Group Presentation Sign Up	Briefing Note Submission Date 2
Week 9 March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Module 8: Climate Change and Human Health.	No Tutorial This Week	
Week 10 March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Module 9: Let’s hear from the TAs!	Group Activity: Mock UN	Final Papers Accepted
Week 11 March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Module 10: Environmental Racism	Group Presentation Prep.	
Week 12 April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Module 11: Environmental Activism	Group Presentations	Group Presentations
Week 13 April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Module 12: Where Do We Go From Here	Group Presentations	Group Presentations Final Paper and Evaluations Due

## 8. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors.

## 9. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- For any communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored by instructors or teaching assistants

## 10. Evaluation

[Enter in the methods by which student performance will be evaluated and the weight of each, including an exact timetable and schedule of assignments. When exact dates cannot be supplied, a tentative schedule must be issued, with an exact schedule to follow as soon as possible. This regulation does not preclude the administration of surprise assignments and quizzes, as long as the total number, approximate frequency, and value of such assignments are specified in the course outline.]

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Deliverables	Weighting	Due Date
Core Project	Project Scoping	5%	February 1st
	Final Report	40%  (10% for group chapters, 30% for individual chapter)	April 12 <sup>th</sup> (accepted starting March 22 <sup>nd</sup> )
	Group Presentation	20%	April 5 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup>
	Group Evaluation	5%	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
Briefing Notes		20%	February 8 <sup>th</sup> and/or March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Participation		10%	Randomly Assessed



Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin

- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

#### **Information about late or missed evaluations:**

Notification of non-medical absences from tutorials must be provided to your Teaching Assistant within 24 hours prior to your tutorial.

Students requiring accommodation for assignment due dates must request this directly from the instructor via email at a minimum of 48 hours prior to the due date. Accommodation is not considered granted until confirmed by the instructor.

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final grade.

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

## **11. Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) 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 Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line 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 are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)

- 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 academic 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 grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual 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.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

### **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](#).

## **12. Make-up Examinations**

There are no examinations in this course.

## **13. Use of Electronic Devices**

Some sessions may require students to participate in live polling. Poll results will be shared with the class and instructions provided.

## 14.How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

## 15.Use of Recordings

**All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded.** The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

## 16.Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting



The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

## **17. 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 required papers 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 papers 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 ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).

## **18. Western’s 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 course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this 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 accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

## **19. Mental Health**

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

## **20. Support Services**

[Western's Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

## **21. Important Dates**

January 11: Classes resume

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

February 15: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 13 to February 21: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 15: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 2: Good Friday

April 12: Classes end

April 13: Study day

April 14 to April 30: Examination Period