

GEOG 3432B

Environmental Hazards and Human Health Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2022

This course is delivered in-person

1. Course Information

Online Delivery Details (Until at Least January 31st)			
	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Zoom Details
Lecture	Asynchronous	Posted weekly to OWL	N/A
Tutorial 1	Synchronous	Thursdays 10:30-11:30	TBD
Tutorial 2	Synchronous	Thursdays 11:30-12:30	TBD
Tutorial 3	Synchronous	Thursdays 11:30-12:30	TBD



In-Person Delivery Details (once in-person classes resume)			
	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-Person	Thursdays 7:00-9:00pm	SSC – 3026
Tutorial 1	In-Person	Thursdays 10:30 – 11:30	UC – 3220
Tutorial 2	In-Person	Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30	SH – 3305
Tutorial 3	In-Person	Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30	SH - 3317

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day	Exam Period
January 10	February 21-25	April 8	April 9	April 10-30

January 18, 2022: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 14, 2022: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Josh Tobias	jtobias2@uwo.ca	Friday 12:00-13:00* Tuesday 12:00 – 13:00* Or by request. *Appointments required, please sign up via OWL

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Sarah Bradshaw	sbradsh6@uwo.ca	To be determined
Emma Fabri	efabri@uwo.ca	To be determined
Derrick Kessie	dkessie@uwo.ca	To be determined

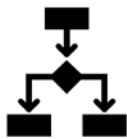
- All Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using OWL



2. Calendar Description

This class explores the relationship between human health and exposure to environmental hazards. In doing so, we will place a particular emphasis on developing our understanding of: key concepts and frameworks; approaches to the study of environmental exposure and human health; the intersection of health and environmental policies; sources of exposure (water, air, soil, indoor, industrial, natural); environmental racism and activism; ongoing and historical 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.”

3. Textbook



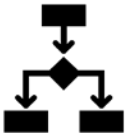
☒ There is no textbook for this course. All resources (e.g. readings, videos) will be posted in OWL within each of the corresponding modules. Please ensure to check both lecture and tutorial sections of the relevant module and ensure that you have reviewed materials in advance of the specific tutorial/lecture as these materials will form the basis of our discussion.

4. 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 interactive lectures, 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 unpacking case studies, taking up assignments (time for discussion, practicing skills, referencing, working in groups, presentation development) and other topics as they emerge.

☒ Attendance at both lectures and labs is required.

☒ As attendance is a component of your grade, please communicate any anticipated absence with your Teaching Assistant. You will be responsible for completing any missed work within 48 hours.



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](#).

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.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion 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



6. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic	Work Due
Week 1 Jan 10-14	Introduction to the Class	NO TUTORIAL	
Week 2 Jan 17-21	Module 1: Key Concepts- Environment, Risk, and Health.	Introduction and review (Tutorial Sessions 2-3 Combined, see link via OWL)	
Week 3 Jan 24-28	Module 2: Approaches to Understanding	Group Work: Team creation and project selection	
Week 4 Jan 31- Feb 4	Module 4: Environmental and Health Policy, Part 1	Media Analysis: Searching Media Databases	Project Scoping Due
Week 5 Feb 7-11	Module 4: Environmental and Health Policy, Part 2	Group Activity: Policy Blitz	Briefing Note Submission Date 1
Week 6 Feb 14-18	Module 5: Risk From Industry	Case Study: Canada's Chemical Valley	
Week 7 Feb 21-25	Module 6: Indoor Environments	Literature Review Activity: Built Environment and Health	
Week 8 Feb 28- Mar 4	Reading Week		
Week 9 Mar 7-11	Module 7: Workplace Health	Group Meetings + Group Presentation Prep	Briefing Note Submission Date 2
Week 10 Mar 14- 18	Module 8: Climate Change and Human Health.	Group Activity: Mock UN	
Week 11 Mar 21-25	Module 9: Let's Hear from the TAs!	TBD	Final Papers Accepted
Week 12 Mar 28- Apr 1	Module 10: Environmental Racism	Group Presentation Prep	
Week 13 Apr 4-8	Module 11: Where do we go from here?	Group Presentations	



7. 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 daily by instructors or teaching assistants

8. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Briefing Note	3x 2.5 pages max	30%	Feb 10 th and/or Mar 10 th
Final Paper	3000 words max	40%	Accepted starting Mar 24, last day to submit is April 7
Group Presentation	15 minutes, pre-recorded	20%	Dates to be determined in tutorial
Attendance and Participation	Attendance and participation in lecture/tutorial throughout the course	10%	Ongoing



Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned readings

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

Information about late or missed evaluations:

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

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;

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.

9. 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.

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. 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. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a 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.



11. Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

12. Information on COVID-19

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.]

13. 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>).

14. Western's 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 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.

15. 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.

16. Support Services

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

17. Important Dates

January 10: Classes resume

January 18: Last day to add a second term half course

February 21: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 21-25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 14: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 8: Classes end

April 9: Study day

April 10-31: Examination Period (excluding Fri Apr 15 thru Sun Apr 17)