

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Geography and Environment
GEOG 2152F-650 Geography of Hazards
 Summer 2022 Distance Studies

1. Course Information

Delivery Mode
Online Asynchronous



Classes Start	Classes End	Last Day to Add a Course	Last Day to Drop a Course	Exam Period
May 9	July 29	May 13	June 13	August 2-5

May 23: Victoria Day

July 1: Canada Day

August 1: Civic Holiday

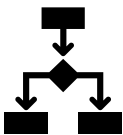


Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Mark Moscicki	mmoscic@uwo.ca	SSC 2219	By appointment

Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom. Students will be able to request an appointment by e-mail.

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 2152 A/B

Prerequisite: None

3. Readings

Readings will be posted on the course website throughout the semester.



4. 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 caused by hazardous events
- knowledge of hazard planning and management solutions
- enhanced geographical problem-solving skills
- improved map reading abilities and geographic awareness



5. Course Format

All course material will be posted to [OWL](#). 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 proper 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 are also available by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Closed captioning will be provided on video recordings.

6. Schedule

<i>Module</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	May 9 – May 13	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	May 16 – May 20	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
3	May 23 – May 27	Tsunamis
		Models of Human Response
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
4	May 30 – June 3	Risk and Culture
		Landslides
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
5	June 6 – June 10	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Hurricane Tracking</i>
	June 15	Midterm Exam
6	June 20 – June 24	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 5: Earthquakes</i>
7	June 28 – July 1	Volcanoes
8	July 4 – July 8	Meteorite Impacts
9	July 11 – July 15	Technological Hazards
		Pandemics
10	July 18 – July 22	Snow Avalanches
		<i>Assignment 6: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
11	July 25 – July 29	Wildfires



7. Communication

Students should check the course website daily to keep up with announcements. E-mails to the instructor must be sent from a UWO account and should contain the course code in the subject. E-mails will receive a response within 24 hours on weekdays.



8. Evaluation

Students are responsible for material covered in lectures as well as readings and videos. Assignments and question sets are practical, interactive applications of course content. Detailed information about the essay will be provided early in the semester. The midterm exam will cover material studied from May 9 through June 10. The final exam is cumulative but heavily weighted toward material studied in the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of a variety of question types.



<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Discussion Questions	Weekly	10%
Assignments	See Section 6 above	12%
Module Review Quizzes	Weekly	11%
Midterm Exam	June 15, 1:00 PM	18%
Essay	July 14	15%
Final Exam	TBA	34%

Discussion questions, assignments, and module review quizzes are due at 11:55 PM EDT on the respective deadline dates.

Late Assessments

Assessments submitted late without submission of a self-reported absence, or an accommodation granted by academic counselling will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day. An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been graded and returned to the class.

Course Grades

Grades will not be adjusted based on 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 Missed Assessments

Students will have one opportunity to use an online portal to self-report an absence between May and August, 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 final exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar
- 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 between May and August

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](#).

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 offence; any student who has been found to have done this will receive 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.

12. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be permitted during exams.

13. Online Proctoring Notice and Guidelines

Exams in this course will be conducted using the remote proctoring service, Proctortrack. By enrolling in 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. More information about this service is available here: <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

Completion of this course will require a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. Information about the technical requirements are available at <https://www.proctortrack.com/tech-requirements/>

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Support Sites

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Centre](#)

17. Important Dates

May 9: First day of classes for summer distance studies

May 13: Last day to add a summer distance studies course

May 23: Victoria Day

June 13: Last day to drop a summer distance studies course without penalty

July 1: Canada Day

July 29: Last day of classes for summer distance studies

August 2-5: Final exam period for summer distance studies