

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Geography and Environment
GEOG 2152F: Geography of Hazards
 Fall 2022

1. Course Information

Delivery Mode	Day and Time	Location
In-person	Mondays 3:30 – 6:20 PM	AHB 1R40



Fall Classes Start	Reading Week	Fall Classes End	Study Day	Fall Final Exams
Sep 8	Oct 31 – Nov 6	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10 – Dec 22

Sep 16: Last day to add a first term half course

Oct 10: Thanksgiving Holiday

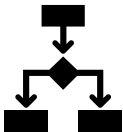
Nov 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Mark Moscicki	mmoscic@uwo.ca	SSC 2219	Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 PM

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 Objectives

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

Attendance at class sessions is expected as assignments will be completed during class time in the classroom. Selected course material will be posted to [OWL](#).

[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.

6. Schedule

<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Sep 12	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	Sep 19	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
		<i>Video: Japan Tsunami</i>
3	Sep 26	Tsunamis
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
		Models of Human Response
4	Oct 3	Risk and Culture
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
		Landslides
5	Oct 17	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Discussion I</i>
	Oct 24	Midterm Exam
6	Nov 7	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 5: Hurricane Tracking</i>
7	Nov 14	Volcanoes
		<i>Assignment 6: Discussion II</i>
		<i>Video: Mt. St. Helens</i>
8	Nov 21	Technological Hazards
		<i>Assignment 7: Groundwater Contamination</i>
		Meteorite Impacts
9	Nov 28	<i>Video: Chelyabinsk Meteor</i>
		<i>Assignment 8: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
		Snow Avalanches
10	Dec 5	Wildfires
		<i>Assignment 9: Discussion III</i>
		<i>Video: Inside the Megafire</i>



7. Communication



Students should check the course website regularly to keep up with announcements. E-mails to the instructor or to a teaching assistant 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 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 Sep 12 through Oct 17. 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>Assessment</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Assignments	Weekly	9%
Question Sets	Weekly	5%
Midterm Exam	Oct 24	30%
Essay	Nov 21	20%
Final Exam	TBA	36%

Requirements

The evaluation methods above are essential requirements of the course. Students must submit at least 5 assignments to pass the course. Students must earn a passing grade on the essay to pass the course.

Late Assessments

Essays submitted late without approved documentation will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day.

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 Missed Assessments

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed *assignments* or missed *question sets* should contact the instructor within 48 hours of the assessment deadline.

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for the *essay*, the *midterm exam*, or the *final exam* shall only be granted in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. This documentation must be submitted to an academic counselling office within 48 hours of the assessment deadline.

[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. Continuity of Education Plan

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online asynchronously. The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

12. Information on COVID-19

Mask Guidelines

Students might 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 University 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., question sets, assignments, essay, exams) require formal academic considerations (see Section 9).

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](#).

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.

14. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be permitted during exams.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Support Sites

[Student Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

18. Important Dates

Sep 8: Fall classes resume
Sep 16: Last day to add a first term half course
Oct 10: Thanksgiving Holiday
Oct 31 – Nov 6: Fall reading week (no classes; department office open)
Nov 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without academic penalty
Nov 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty
Dec 8: Fall classes end
Dec 9: Study day
Dec 10-22: Examination period