

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Geography and Environment
GEOG 2152G: Geography of Hazards
 Winter 2023

1. Course Information

Delivery Mode	Day and Time	Location
In-person	Thursdays 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM	UCC 146



Winter Classes Start	Reading Week	Winter Classes End	Study Day	Winter Final Exams
Jan 9	Feb 18 – 26	Apr 10	Apr 11-12	Apr 13 – 30

Jan 17: Last day to add a second term half course

Feb 20: Family Day Holiday

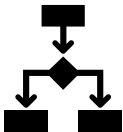
Mar 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Mark Moscicki	mmoscic@uwo.ca	SSC 2219	Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:00 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>Week</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
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
		<i>Video: Japan Tsunami</i>
		Models of Human Response
4	Feb 2	Risk and Culture
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
		Landslides
5	Feb 9	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Discussion I</i>
	Feb 16	Midterm Exam
6	Mar 2	<i>Video: Hurricane Katrina</i>
		Human-Environment Relations
		<i>Assignment 5: Environmental Change</i>
7	Mar 9	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 6: Hurricane Tracking</i>
8	Mar 16	Volcanoes
		<i>Assignment 7: Discussion II</i>
		<i>Video: Mt. St. Helens</i>
9	Mar 23	Technological Hazards
		<i>Assignment 8: Groundwater Contamination</i>
		Meteorite Impacts
10	Mar 30	<i>Video: Chelyabinsk Meteor</i>
		<i>Assignment 9: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
		Snow Avalanches
11	Apr 6	Wildfires
		<i>Assignment 10: 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 Jan 12 through Feb 9. 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	10%
Question Sets	Weekly	5%
Midterm Exam	Feb 16	28%
Essay	Mar 23	20%
Final Exam	TBA	37%

Late Assessments

Essays submitted late without approved documentation or the submission of a self-reported absence will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day.

Essays

Students must earn a passing grade on the essay to pass the course.

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 will have up to two 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 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. If a student is absent from both the midterm exam and its make-up exam for approved reasons, then the weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam.

11. Continuity of Education Plan

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some of or the entire course to be delivered online asynchronously. The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

If unable to be completed in-person, the midterm exam and final exam will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. 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.

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 at <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

12. Information on COVID-19

Mask 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 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

Jan 9: Winter classes begin

Jan 17: Last day to add a second term half course

Feb 18-26: Winter Reading Week (no classes; department office open)

Feb 20: Family Day Holiday (department office closed)

Mar 7: Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty

Apr 7: Good Friday Holiday (department office closed)

Apr 11-12: Study days

Apr 13-30: Examination period