

## GEOG 3432 B

### Environmental Hazards and Human Health

### Winter 2023

This course is delivered in-person

#### 1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
<b>Lecture (Section 001)</b>	In-Person	Thursdays 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	SSC-2032
<b>Tutorial (Section 002)</b>	In-Person	Thursday 9:30 am – 10:30 am	SSC 3307
<b>Tutorial (Section 003)</b>	In-Person	Thursday 10:30 am -11:30 am	MC-105B
<b>Tutorial (Section 004)</b>	In-Person	Thursday 11:30 am -12:30 pm	SH-3307

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 5

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 9	February 18-26	April 10	April 11 & 12	April 13-30

- January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course
- February 20, 2023: Family Day
- March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a first-term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Josh Tobias	<a href="mailto:jtobias2@uwo.ca">jtobias2@uwo.ca</a>	Friday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Via Zoom. Sign-up is required 24 hours in advance via OWL.  Additional office hours immediately following class.

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Sarah Bradshaw (Section 004)	<a href="mailto:sbradsh6@uwo.ca">sbradsh6@uwo.ca</a>	Tuesday 11:00 am – 12: 00 pm Via Zoom. Sign-up is required 24 hours in advance via OWL.
Emma Fabri (Section 003)	<a href="mailto:efabri@uwo.ca">efabri@uwo.ca</a>	Tuesdays 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Via Zoom. Sign-up is required 24 hours in advance via OWL.
Alexandra Overvelde (Section 002)	<a href="mailto:aovervel@uwo.ca">aovervel@uwo.ca</a>	Tuesday 10:00 am – 11: 00 am Via Zoom. Sign-up is required 24 hours in advance via OWL.

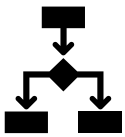


- Individual or Group Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using OWL

## 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 impacts; the intersection of health and environmental policies; sources of exposure; environmental racism and activism; ongoing global and local issues.

**Course Prerequisite(s):** There are no prerequisites for this course. However, students are 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 2430 (Public Health and Environment); 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 the materials in advance of the specific tutorial/lecture as these materials will inform the basis of our discussion.

## 4. 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

## 5. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Topic	Work Due
Week 1 January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction	NO TUTORIAL	
Week 2 January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Key Concepts: Environment, Risk, and Health	Briefing Notes 101	
Week 3 January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Approaches to Understanding	Literature Review	
Week 4 February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Policy: the messy business of cleaning up the mess	Media Analysis	
Week 5 February 9 <sup>th</sup>	Working Yourself to Death – Workplace Exposure	Policy Blitz	Briefing Notes Due
Week 6 February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Risks from Industry (Case Study) (virtual)	Team Creation and Project Selection	
Reading Week February 23			
Week 7 March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Climate Change and Human Health (Model UN)	Group Meeting	
Week 8 March 9 <sup>th</sup>	War! What is it good for?	Built Environment	
Week 9 March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Racism in Canada?	Case Study: Canada's Chemical Valley	
Week 10 March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Group Presentations	Group Presentation*	Final Papers Accepted
Week 11 March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Group Presentation	Group Presentation*	Final Papers Due
Week 12 April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Where do we go from here?	No Tutorial	

This may change.

In the event of any changes, announcements will be made in class as well as on OWL.



## 6. Course Objectives and Format

This is a lecture-based course that places an emphasis on theoretical and applied concepts through readings, lectures, and discussion. We will also be placing a particular emphasis on gaining practical and applicable skills used daily by those actively working in this field. Teaching methods include interactive lectures, documentaries and films, guest visits, and student discussions (online and in-person). Most material is covered within each module and delivered by Professor Tobias. The tutorial shall be reserved for unpacking case studies and key methods, and taking up assignments or other topics as they emerge.

Attendance is required. As 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.

Any cancellations in classes or tutorials will be communicated via OWL.

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.

## 7. Communication

Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours

Regular updates 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 Notes	3 x 650 words (2.5 pages) max	30%	February 9 <sup>th</sup>
Final Paper	3000 words (12 pages) max	40%	March 30 <sup>th</sup>
Presentation	10 mins per group	20%	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup>
Participation	In-Class and Online	10%	Ongoing

- 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, and any assignment receiving a yellow or red score will be reviewed in detail.
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their Teaching Assistant; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days. No responses to questions about a grade will be provided prior to 24 hours of receiving the assignment.



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 a non-medical absence 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. **Teaching Assistants will not grant any accommodation.**

- 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; an alternate assessment will be assigned

**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

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), or it may be 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, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only 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.

#### Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students

##### Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

### 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

There are no examinations in this class.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.]

## 11. 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.



## 12. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

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, 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 remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## 13. 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, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically 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.

#### **14. 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> ).

#### **15. 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.

#### **16. 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.

#### **17. Support Services**

Western's Support Services  
Student Development Centre

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).