

The University of Western Ontario  
 Department of Geography and Environment  
**GEOG 2152F-650 Geography of Hazards**  
 Summer 2023 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 8         | July 28     | May 12                   | June 12                   | July 31 - Aug 3 |

May 22: Victoria Day

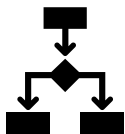
June 30: Canada Day (observed)



| 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 clips.

## 6. Schedule

| <i>Module</i> | <i>Week</i>       | <i>Topic</i>                               |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| 1             | May 8 – May 12    | Introduction                               |
|               |                   | Overview of Hazards                        |
| 2             | May 15 – May 19   | Disaster and Risk Research                 |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i> |
| 3             | May 22 – May 26   | Tsunamis                                   |
|               |                   | Models of Human Response                   |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>    |
| 4             | May 29 – June 2   | Risk and Culture                           |
|               |                   | Landslides                                 |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>        |
| 5             | June 5 – June 9   | Severe Weather                             |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 4: Hurricane Tracking</i>    |
|               | June 15           | Midterm Exam                               |
| 6             | June 19 – June 23 | Earthquakes                                |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 5: Earthquakes</i>           |
| 7             | June 26 – June 30 | Volcanoes                                  |
| 8             | July 3 – July 7   | Meteorite Impacts                          |
| 9             | July 10 – July 14 | Technological Hazards                      |
|               |                   | Pandemics                                  |
| 10            | July 17 – July 21 | Snow Avalanches                            |
|               |                   | <i>Assignment 6: Snowpack Monitoring</i>   |
| 11            | July 24 – July 28 | 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 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 8 through June 9. 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 13             | 15%          |
| Final Exam            | TBA                 | 34%          |

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

### Requirements

Students must complete at least 3 assignments to pass the course. Students must earn a passing grade on the essay to pass the course.

### Late Assessments

Assignments submitted late without approved documentation will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day. However, an assignment 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 seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed *assignments*, *quizzes*, or *discussion questions* 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. There is no make-up for the midterm exam; if it is missed for a valid reason then the weight of it will be transferred to the final 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.

## **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 8: First day of classes for summer distance studies

May 12: Last day to add a summer distance studies course

May 22: Victoria Day

June 12: Last day to drop a summer distance studies course without penalty

June 30: Canada Day (observed)

July 28: Last day of classes for summer distance studies

July 31- August 3: Final exam period for summer distance studies