

## GEOG 3432 B

### Environmental Hazards & Human Health

### Winter 2024

#### 1. Course Information

\*full details about the design and delivery of the course are listed in Section 5



Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 8	February 19-23	April 8	April 9 & 10	April 11-30

- January 16, 2024: Last day to add a second-term half course
- February 19, 2024: Family Day
- March 7, 2024: Last day to drop a second term half course without academic penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Joshua Tobias	<a href="mailto:jtobias2@uwo.ca">jtobias2@uwo.ca</a>	Immediately following lecture Priority will be given to those who sign up in advance.

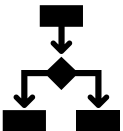
Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Evans Batung	<a href="mailto:ebatung@uwo.ca">ebatung@uwo.ca</a>	TBD
Sulemana Sakka	<a href="mailto:ssulem@uwo.ca">ssulem@uwo.ca</a>	TBD



- Office hours will be held in person or remotely using MS Teams
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using OWL

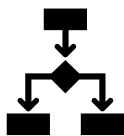
#### 2. Calendar Description

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 if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

### 3. Textbook

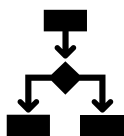


There is no textbook for this course. All resources (e.g. readings, videos) will be posted in OWL within each of the corresponding modules. Please ensure to check both lecture and tutorial sections of the relevant module and ensure that you have reviewed the materials in advance of the specific tutorial/lecture 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



Attendance is required and contributes to your final grade. If you will be missing a lecture or tutorial please advise the instructor or T.A. beforehand. You may be asked to provide accommodation for missed classes.

Missed work should be completed within 48 hours

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](#).

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.

### 5. Course Content and Schedule

A comprehensive course schedule is available on OWL.



<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Tutorial Topic</b>	<b>Work Due</b>
1	January 8-12	Introduction	NO TUTORIAL	
2	January 15-19	Key Concepts: Environment, Health, Risk	Briefing Notes	
3	January 22-26	Approaches to Understanding	Team Creation and Project Selection	
4	January 29-February 2	Policy: the messy business of cleaning up the mess	Literature Reviews	
5	February 5-9	Risks from Industry (Case study) - Virtual	Media Analysis Case Discussion: Love Canal	
6	February 12-16	Working Yourself to Death – Workplace Exposure	Case Studies Case Discussion: Grassy Narrows First Nation	Briefing Notes Due
	February 19-23	Reading Week	N/A	N/A
7	February 26-March 1	War! What is it good for?	Case Discussion: Pahoee Sugar Cane	
8	March 4-8	Climate Change and Human Health	Case Discussion: Cancer Alley (Louisiana)	
9	March 11-15	Guest Lecture (TBD)	Case Discussion: Boat Harbour Clean Up (2015)	
10	March 18-22	What can we learn from Chemical Valley? (Virtual)	Case Discussion: Bean v. Southwestern management Corp.	
11	March 25-29	Risk and Vulnerability in The Artic	Case Discussion: Flint Water Crisis	
12	April 1-5	Environmental Racism	Case Discussion: Shelburne N.S. Dump	Final Paper Due
13	Monday April 8	Where do we go from here?	NO TUTORIAL	

## 6. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Any key messages will be shared via 'Announcements'
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using the subject line 'GEG 3442'. Please contact teaching assistants before contacting the instructor.
- 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

## 7. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Participation	In-Class and Online	10%	Ongoing
Case Discussion	In Tutorial Presentation	20%	Schedule TBD
Briefing Notes	3x650 words (2.5 pages max per note)	30%	Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>
Final Paper	3000 words	40%	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup> .

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned readings.



- 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
- 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

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
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**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; the weight will be transferred to the final grade.

**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.**

## 8. 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](#).

## 9. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

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.]

## 10. 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.



## 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.

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> ).

## 12. **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.

## 13. **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.

## 14. **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).

## 15. **Important Dates**

Monday January 8: Classes resume

Tuesday January 16: Last day to add a second term half course

Monday February 19: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 17 to February 25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

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

Friday March 29: Good Friday – Department Office Closed

Monday April 8: Classes end

April 9 and 10: Study days

April 11-30: Examination Period