

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Geography and Environment
GEOG 2152F-650 Geography of Hazards
 Summer 2024

1. Course Information

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



Classes Start	Classes End	Last Day to Add a Course	Last Day to Drop a Course	Exam Period
May 6	July 26	May 10	June 10	July 29 - Aug 1

May 20: Victoria Day

July 1: Canada Day

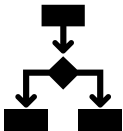


Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office	Office Hours
Mark Moscicki	mmoscic@uwo.ca	SSC 2219	By appointment

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 Brightspace](#). Any changes will be indicated on the OWL Brightspace site and discussed with the class.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL Brightspace; 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 Brightspace 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 is provided on all video clips.

6. Schedule

<i>Module</i>	<i>Week of</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	May 6	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	May 13	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
3	May 21	Tsunamis
		Models of Human Response
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
4	May 27	Risk and Culture
		Landslides
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
5	June 3	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Hurricane Tracking</i>
	June 10	Midterm Exam
6	June 17	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 5: Earthquakes</i>
7	June 24	Volcanoes
8	July 2	Meteorite Impacts
9	July 8	Technological Hazards
		Pandemics
10	July 15	Snow Avalanches
		<i>Assignment 6: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
11	July 22	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 modules as well as readings and videos. Discussion questions are opinion-based and are each worth 1% of the course grade. Assignments are practical, interactive applications of course content and are each worth 2% of the course grade. Quizzes are based on the module content studied during that week and are each worth 1.5% of the course grade. Detailed information about the essay will be provided early in the semester. The midterm exam will cover material studied from May 6 through June 7. 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	16.5%
Midterm Exam	June 15, 1:00 PM	17.5%
Essay	July 14	14%
Final Exam	Aug 2, 9:00 AM	30%

Discussion questions, assignments, and module review quizzes are due at 11:59 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 its grades have been posted.

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*, *discussion questions*, or *quizzes* should contact the instructor within 48 hours of the assessment deadline. If a valid reason is provided, the accommodation for the above assessments involves transferring the weight to the final exam.

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](#)

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.extranet.uwo.ca/extranet/secure/remoteproctoring/temp/Remote_Proctoring_Guidelines_2021FW.pdf

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 6: First day of classes

May 10: Last day to add a summer course

May 20: Victoria Day

June 10: Last day to drop a summer course without penalty

July 1: Canada Day

July 26: Last day of classes

July 29- August 1: Final exam period