

The University of Western Ontario  
 Department of Geography and Environment  
**GEOG 2152F-650 Geography of Hazards**  
 Summer 2025

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## 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 5	July 25	May 9	June 9	July 28 - 31

May 19: Victoria Day

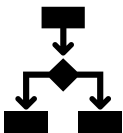
July 1: Canada Day



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 Brightspace.



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 5	Introduction
		Overview of Hazards
2	May 12	Disaster and Risk Research
		<i>Assignment 1: Flood Risk Assessment</i>
3	May 20	Tsunamis
		Models of Human Response
		<i>Assignment 2: Tsunami Inundation</i>
4	May 26	Risk and Culture
		Landslides
		<i>Assignment 3: Landslide Risk</i>
5	June 2	Severe Weather
		<i>Assignment 4: Hurricane Tracking</i>
6	June 9	Human-Environment Relations
7	June 16	Earthquakes
		<i>Assignment 5: Earthquakes</i>
8	June 23	Volcanoes
9	June 30	Meteorite Impacts
10	July 7	Technological Hazards
		Pandemics
11	July 14	Snow Avalanches
		<i>Assignment 6: Snowpack Monitoring</i>
12	July 21	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. Assignments are practical, interactive applications of course content and are each worth 3% of the course grade. Quizzes are based on the module content studied during that week and are each worth 2% of the course grade. Video analysis assessments involve questions based on 4 videos that will be presented and are each worth 2% of the course grade. Detailed information about the essay will be provided early in the semester. The final exam will consist of a variety of question types.

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Value</i>
Assignments	See Section 6 above	18%
Module Review Quizzes	Weekly	24%
Video Analysis	See OWL	8%
Essay	July 11	15%
Final Exam	TBA	35%

Assignments, quizzes, and video analysis assessments are due at 11:59 PM EDT on the respective deadline dates.

### Requirements

The evaluation methods above are essential requirements. To pass the course, students must complete at least 3 assignments and the essay. Students who have not met these requirements will not be permitted to write the final exam.

### Late Assessments

Assessments submitted late without approved documentation will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day. However, an assessment cannot be submitted after it has been graded, and its grades have been posted.

### 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](#).

### **Absence from Course Commitments**

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request through the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is always required for the final exam.

### **General Information about Missed Work**

University policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation on the Student Absence Portal within 48 hours. Any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

### **Course Assessment with a Flexible Deadline (Essay)**

The research report has a flexible deadline. Students are expected to submit the report by the deadline listed on the course outline. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit the report up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should a report be submitted beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Since a flexible deadline is used for the report, requests for academic consideration for the report will not be granted. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, you must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the deadline listed on the course outline.

## **Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write an exam due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform the instructor as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the final exam. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform the instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior.

## **10. Make-up Final Examinations**

A special final exam is any exam other than the regular exam, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered in consultation with the Instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a special final exam may be given based on compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. The format and content of make-up exams may differ substantially from the original 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 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.

The use of artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT or artificial intelligence writing assistants is not permitted in any assessment. Representing an idea, an expression of an idea, or a writing style or structure that was generated by artificial intelligence will result in a grade of zero on the assessment and may lead to further disciplinary action.

## **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](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. Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

#### **17. Support Sites**

[Student Support Services](#)  
[Student Development Centre](#)

#### **18. Important Dates**

May 5: First day of classes  
May 9: Last day to add a summer course  
May 19: Victoria Day

June 9: Last day to drop a summer course without penalty

July 1: Canada Day

July 25: Last day of classes

July 28 - 31: Final exam period