

Western University
Geography of Hazards: GEO 2152F
Course Outline, Intersession 2016

Instructor: Sarah Mason

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Lectures: Wed/Thurs 9:00 – 12:00 UCC 41

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00, or by appointment

ANTIREQUISITS: The former Geography 2152A/B

OVERVIEW: The course is 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 discussions of both so-called "natural hazards" (e.g., floods, fires, earthquakes) and "technological hazards" (e.g., nuclear technology, genetically modified organisms, terrorism, war) as examples.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course students will...

- Have an introduction to social science theories of both natural and technological hazards and case examples of disasters.
- Recognize the social dimensions of risk and individualized responses to hazards.
- Have a knowledge of hazard planning and management solutions
- Be able to interpret research findings and critically evaluate the quality of academic research
- Develop and enhance written and verbal communication skills

READINGS:

Required readings will be posted on the course website.

ASSESSMENTS

Evaluation of your performance in the course will be based on the following:

Assignment 1 – Natural Hazards: Short In-Class Student Presentation	(15%)	June 2, 2016
Midterm	(30%)	June 8, 2016
Assignment 2 – Technological Hazards - Critical Appraisal of Academic and Media Sources	(15%)	June 23, 2016
Class Participation	(5%)	
Final Examination	(35%)	TBA

Assignments will be explained in greater detail in class. There will be a 5% per day late penalty for assignments submitted after the due date. The midterm exam will cover material from May

18 to June 2. The final exam will be primarily weighted toward material covered in the second half of the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank and short answer questions with some options for choice.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule for and outline of the topics that will be addressed in this course. The schedule may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances, permitted time, or students' interests. Please refer to the course website for posted announcements regarding schedule alterations.

Lecture	Date	Topic
1	May 18	Introduction, Overview of Hazards and Disasters
2	May 19	Disaster and Risk Research <i>Assignment 1 Outlined</i>
3	May 25	Risk Assessment and Management
4	May 26	Tectonic Hazards Mass Movement Hazards
5	June 1	Hydrological and Atmospheric Hazards <i>Video: Katrina: The Storm that Drowned the City</i>
6	June 2	Assignment 1 In-Class Presentations
7	June 8	Midterm
8	June 9	Extreme Weather <i>Video: Fukushima Nuclear Disaster</i> <i>Assignment 2 Overview</i>
9	June 15	Models of Human Response Human Environment Relations
10	June 16	Introduction to Technological Hazards Public Response: Risk and Culture
11	June 22	Air and Groundwater Contamination <i>Video: Walkerton Water Crisis</i> Transportation and Industrial Hazards.
12	June 23	Limits of Science and Regulatory Constraints Environmental Hazards in a Changing World <i>Assignment 2 Due</i>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

ACADEMIC OFFENSES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism – Students must write their assignments in their own words. When an idea or a passage is used from another author, students must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. If you do not directly quote an author's idea but you paraphrase it, quotations are not required, however proper referencing still is. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Academic Calendar).

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>).

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Mental Health at Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

For additional support services, please visit:

Registrar Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

UWO Policy:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

NON-MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

Students with conflicts during lectures, tutorials or exams should discuss these with the course instructor or TAs in advance of the absence.

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