

University of Guelph
Department of Geography, Environment & Geomatics
Course Outline, Fall 2021

GEOG*1350 – Earth: Hazards and Global Change– Credit Weight 0.5

AD-S Classes, Sept.10-28: Monday, Wednesday Friday 3:30 –4:20

Hybrid Classes, Sept. 28 – Dec. 4: Monday, Wednesday Friday 3:30 – 4:20, including the extra class days at the end of the semester to replace Thanksgiving Monday and Tuesday the Fall Study Break Day.

Instructor: Laura J. Brown (laura@uoguelph.ca)

Office Hours: Thursday via Zoom 1:30 - 3:30

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Jay Creen (jcreeen@uoguelph.ca) &
Kyomi Mitsui (kmitsui@uoguelph.ca)

GTA Office Hours: by appointment via Microsoft Teams

Prerequisites: None

REQUIRED TEXT

Canadian Physical Geography Perspectives on Natural Hazards, Climate Variability and Change

This is the official launch of an Open Educational Resource (OER) developed specifically for this course. It is free and publically available. URL: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

"This course investigates physical aspects of natural hazards that affect people and society and will focus on the natural systems and processes that cause climate variability and change, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, hurricanes, tornados and other natural disasters. "

OVERVIEW

This course investigates the components and processes that contribute to naturally hazardous environments. We will focus on the forces and processes driven by internal and external sources of energy that cause floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. The course includes a discussion of significant events in the geologic and historical record as well as future hazard potential and how Geographers are working toward understanding these issues and developing strategies for mitigation and adaptation. We look at the risks humans face in different regions, including local hazards, our contribution to geologic hazards, and how we can minimize and cope with future events.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims to introduce and enhance the learning objectives identified by the University of Guelph and the Department of Geography, Environment & Geomatics. Specifically, in this course, students will:

- Develop a comprehensive *depth and breadth of understanding* of the core concepts and principles that create and trigger natural hazards.
- Critically and *independently* recognize, synthesize and evaluate diverse sources of knowledge, arguments and approaches pertinent to exploring elements of geoscientific problems
 - Investigate complex real-world challenges using appropriate concepts, methods, and tools from the geographical sub-disciplines.
 - Recognize and identify the societal relevance of geographical knowledge and apply it to real-world human-environment issues.
- Develop Google Earth Skills for geographic analysis

CourseLink Page

There is a course webpage on CourseLink. To access our class webpage, use your central account ID and password. The same login ID and password that you use to access your University of Guelph e-mail and WebAdvisor. CourseLink can be accessed from the University's homepage, and I bookmark it in my browser for easy access.

Overview of Course Content and Organization

Topics:

- Introduction to Natural Hazards
- Plate Tectonics
- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Tsunamis
- Mass Movement/Wasting
- Severe Weather
- Rivers and Flooding
- Coastal Hazards
- Climate Change and Variability
- Climate Change and Natural Hazards

Each topic will be covered through a combination of lectures, readings, and class discussions.

Each week students will complete an online quiz based on the lecture and assigned readings for that week; students are responsible for preparing and completing these quizzes in the timeframe stipulated.

There are two short individual assignments during the term based on recent or notable hazards. Please refer to CourseLink for more details and the deadlines

of these assignments.

EXPECTATIONS

As a University of Guelph student, it is expected that you will be respectful and civil to your instructors, TAs and fellow students. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

Examples of inappropriate online behaviour are as follows:

- posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students

- using obscene or offensive language emojis online
- threatening, belittling or harassing a student, instructor or TA
- discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- attempting to compromise the security or functionality of

CourseLink or Zoom

- sharing your username and password
- sharing recording lectures without permission of your instructor
- copying or representing someone else's work as your own
- adopting information from the Internet without using proper

citations or references

- buying or selling assignments
- submitting someone else's work as your own
- posting or selling course materials to course websites
- using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services

COURSE NOTES

I will post the slides I use in my lectures on CourseLink so you can follow along and take notes.

COURSE EVALUATION

The final grade will be assessed from weekly review Quizzes completed online (10%), two Assignments (15% each, 30% total), and two tests a Midterm (25%) and the Final exam (35%). Quizzes, CourseLink discussions and exams are based on information presented in asynchronous micro-lectures and discussed in weekly synchronous meetings. The midterm is online and in week 7, the final exam is focused primarily on the second half but has some cumulative content and is written during the exam period. More details will be provided on CourseLink.

In summary:

Weekly Quizzes	10% Start Sept 17.
Assignments	30% due Oct. 18 and Nov. 22
Midterm Test	25% online test - Oct.25
Final Exam	35% Dec. 7 2:30- 4:30pm-Room TBA

Students with a **documented conflict** for any tests need to see me **at least two weeks** prior to arrange an alternative time, there is no guarantee that this will be accommodated, but ensuring that you address the issue several weeks in advance will certainly assist the

process.

Weekly Review Quizzes – worth 10%, completed online

The weekly review quizzes are an incredible opportunity for students to review and 'test' themselves on the relevant material at a relatively frequent pace. The quizzes in total are worth 10% of the final grade in the class. The quizzes are used to incentivize engagement with the course material one more time. So if you read the assigned readings before you participate in lectures, take helpful notes of the reading and lecture material, and review your notes each week that is approximately five points of engagement with the material. Adding the quiz makes it six points. I think these points of engagement with the material are vital to an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of complex concepts in GEOG*1350. So, the quizzes might feel like extra work – and they should – because the whole point was to get you to engage with the material one more time. Furthermore, the quiz questions help me to gauge student comprehension and usually reflect the most important or challenging ideas and concepts covered during that week. Finally – quiz questions are often re-used on the exams – so in case you needed one more reason to pay attention to them, they will likely help you out with the tests.

The lowest three quiz grades are dropped before the Quiz component of your final grade is calculated. I do this to cover instances where quizzes are missed due to losing track of time and missing the deadline, computer or internet issues, or illness. Therefore, **there are no extensions or second attempts**. If you do all your quizzes, then the lowest three scores are dropped, so you have an opportunity to identify concepts or ideas that need further work to understand without it affecting your final grade.

The quizzes are available from Friday 8PM to the following Monday 2PM.

Assignments – 15% each, 30% total

These assignments are an opportunity for you to demonstrate to us that you understand key concepts. More details about the assignments will be presented inclass and on CourseLink.

Your assignments must be submitted through Dropbox on CourseLink. Late assignments (without prior approval by your GTA) will be penalized at a rate of **10%** of the assignment's value per day. This course uses Turnitin to help encourage academic integrity.

Extensions must be requested in advance and will be evaluated by the GTAs on a case-by-case basis. Additional detailed information on [assignments, midterms, final exam Instructor or Department Policy on Late or Missed Assignments](#) is available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Assignment 1 is due October 18 before midnight and Assignment 2 is due before midnight on November 22nd.

Your GTA handles all lab related questions and grading.

COMMUNICATION

This course uses CourseLink, Teams and Zoom as the primary tools for communication and distribution of course materials.

Following university regulations, all e-mail correspondence will be sent to your University of Guelph e-mail address. I usually respond to student inquiries within 24-36 hours during University Business hours. I also do not reply to messages from off-campus e-mail addresses because they are often spam or phishing scams (indeed, the University forbids it). Keep in mind this is a professional environment, and your messages should reflect this. For example, I do not normally answer e-mails that begin "Hey," or "Yo Prof" or include texting lingo.

Learning Services for First-Year Courses

Although many of you may not be first-year students, because this course is designated as a first-year course, you might not be aware of additional resources. Learning resources at the Library and Learning Commons offer free services to help you succeed in first-year courses at the University of Guelph.

These opportunities include:

- meeting with a peer helper to talk about study strategies or your writing assignments
- attending Supported Learning Groups
- getting assistance finding journal articles and books
- registering for academic workshops

For more information, please visit the Library website or ask me to direct you to someone at the Library and Learning Commons. Library website, www.lib.uoguelph.ca

University of Guelph Policy Statements:

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 7 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

[The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links: <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>

<https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health, or government directives.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class e-mail. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website [<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>] and circulated by e-mail.