

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT & GEOMATICS
COURSE OUTLINE, WINTER 2024

GEOG*1350 – EARTH: HAZARDS AND GLOBAL CHANGE– CREDIT WEIGHT 0.5

CLASSES: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 5:20AM in ROZH 104

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

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Elisha Robbins (erobbins@uoguelph.ca), Maciej Lizak (mlizak@uoguelph.ca), Lara Durksen (ldurksen@uoguelph.ca)

GTA OFFICE HOURS: by appointment via Microsoft Teams

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT:

Brown, L.J., Cockburn, J., Dastrup, R.A; & Earle, S. (2022) ***Canadian Physical Geography Perspectives on Natural Hazards, Climate Variability and Change***. University of Guelph, Pressbooks.
<https://books.lib.uoguelph.ca/canadiannaturalhazardsclimatechange/>

This textbook is an Open Educational Resource (OER) developed specifically for this course. It is free and publicly available.

URL: <https://books.lib.uoguelph.ca/canadiannaturalhazardsclimatechange/>

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 past, the historical record, and future hazard potential. We examine how Geographers are working toward understanding these hazards and developing strategies for mitigation and adaptation. We look at the risks humans face in different regions, including hazards exposure, our contribution to natural 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 result in natural hazards.

- Recognize the human factors that contribute to disasters triggered by natural hazards
- Illustrate an in-depth knowledge of two chosen natural hazards by creating a story and case study
- 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 events and the challenges communities face coping with hazardous events 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.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade will be assigned based on the online weekly review Quizzes, two assignments, a midterm, and the final exam.

In summary:

ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT	DATES
11 Weekly Review Quizzes	10%	Friday 2:00 PM – Monday 11:00 AM Start Jan. 12
2 Assignments	35%	due dates before 23:59 Feb. 14 and Mar. 20
Midterm Test	25% online	Feb. 27 4:00 - 5:00
Final Exam	30% online	Apr. 22 8:30 -10:30

Students with a **documented conflict** for any tests need to see me **at least two weeks** before 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 undoubtedly assist in the process.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND PRESENTATION

Lectures for GEOG*1350 are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 5:20 PM in ROZH 104.

There is a CourseLink page for this course and there you will find class announcements, lecture notes, assignment information, grades, test information and midterms.

Students are expected to attend class and take notes to supplement the posted lecture material. **If you are unable to attend class for any reason it is your responsibility to**

get the notes from one of your classmates. Lectures may include occasional guest lectures and selected multimedia material.

PLANNED OVERVIEW OF COURSE CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

subject to change as the semester progresses

WEEK	LECTURE DATES	TOPICS	TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS	QUIZZES ASSIGNMENTS EXAMS
1	Jan 9 -11	Introduction to Natural Disasters and Fundamental concepts	Chapter 1	Quiz 1
2	Jan 16 - 18	Plate Tectonics	Chapter 2	Quiz 2
3	Jan 23 - 25	Earthquakes	Chapter 3	Quiz 3
4	Jan 30 - Feb 1	Volcanoes	Chapter 4	Quiz 4
5	Feb 6 - 8	Tsunami	Chapter 5	Quiz 5
6	Feb 13 - 15	Mass wasting	Chapter 6	Assignment 1 due Feb 14
	Feb 19 - 24	BREAK		
7	Feb 27 - 29	MIDTERM - Streams Flooding	Chapter 7	Midterm Feb 27 Quiz 7
8	Mar 5 - 7	Weather elements	Chapter 8	Quiz 8
9	Mar 12 - 14	Severe Weather	Chapter 8	Quiz 9
10	Mar 19 - 21	Wildfires	TBA	Assignment 2 due Mar 20 Quiz 10
11	Mar 26 - 28	Climate Change and Variability	Chapter 10	Quiz 11
12	Apr 2 - 4	Climate Change Hazards Course wrap up	Chapter 10	Quiz 12
	Apr. 22	FINAL EXAM (8:30 AM - 10:30 AM)		

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 relatively frequently. These quizzes are worth 10% of the final grade in the class. They are used partly to incentivize engagement with the

course material one more time. So, if you read the assigned readings before participating in lectures, take helpful notes from the reading and class 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, if you need one more reason to pay attention to them, quiz questions also often appear on exams.

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 at 2:00PM to the following Monday morning at 11:00 AM.

ASSIGNMENTS – WORTH 35% TOTAL

These are group assignments that allow you to demonstrate to us that you understand key concepts. Therefore, AI (e.g. ChatGPT) is not allowed. More details about the assignments will be presented in class and on CourseLink.

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

Extensions must be requested in advance and evaluated case-by-case. 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 worth 15% of your final grade and is due before midnight on Feb 14. Assignment 2 is worth 20% of your final grade and is due before midnight on Mar 20. Your GTA handles all Assignment grading questions and grading.

EXAMS- WORTH 55% TOTAL, COMPLETED ONLINE

Both the midterm and the final exams are delivered online. These are **not** open book or open internet exams. The midterm covers the material from the first 6 weeks of the course. The final exam covers all 12 weeks of the course. More information on both

exams will be provided in class.

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 48 hours during University Business hours. I also do not reply to messages on weekends or from off-campus e-mail addresses because they are often spam or phishing scams. Remember that this is a professional environment, and your messages should reflect this. For example, I do not typically answer e-mails that begin with “Hey,” or “Yo Prof”.

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

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 a 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

One semester long courses must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be settled 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 backup 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 must 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 seven 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 to abide by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility to support 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 doubt 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 related to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or a 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 significant assignment).

Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these

links: <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>

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

Please note that 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.

There is a Course Outline Bonus Quiz on this course outline available until Jan. 22 at 11:00AM.