

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: GEOG-111-Natural Hazards

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-Person, Classroom

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Hilary Sandford

EMAIL: sandford@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Fisher 342C

HOURS: M, W, Th 11:30-1:30; T 4:30-5:30

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course introduces physical geography by examining the natural environmental processes behind hazards like earthquakes, storms, landslides and floods. It examines how human development and planning can turn hazards into disasters, or effectively mitigate them. Current events are emphasized. Lab activities introduce physical geography techniques in a hazards context.

PREREQUISITE(S): One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES: ENVR 107

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

Analyze the natural environmental systems that underlie natural hazards.

Explain how human development and planning influence natural hazard risk.

Apply some basic geographic analysis techniques related to natural hazards.

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

There is no textbook used for this course and, instead, weekly lecture and lab materials will be provided through Camosun College's learning management software, D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK OF:	LECTURE TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
January 6	Course Introduction	Lab 1: Latitude & Longitude
January 13	Defining Hazards	Lab 2: UTM
January 20	Earthquakes	Lab 3: Earthquakes
January 27	Tsunamis	Lab 4: Tsunamis
February 3	Landslides	Lab 5: Landslides
February 10	Event Timeline	Midterm
February 17	-----Reading Break-----	
February 24	Volcanoes	Lab 6: International Aid
March 3	Flooding	Lab 7: Flooding
March 10	Extreme Weather – Part 1	Event Timeline
March 17	Extreme Weather – Part 2	Lab 8: Hurricanes
March 24	Drought	Lab 9: Drought
March 31	Wildfire	Lab 10: Wildfire
April 7	Quizzes & Checklists	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Lab Exercises	40
Event Timeline	10
Midterm Exam	25
Final Exam	25
	TOTAL
If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the Grade Review and Appeals policy for more information.	
https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf	
	100%

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

There are several different components to this course.

Lectures: The weekly in-person lectures will cover a variety of natural events and how their occurrences potentially threaten humans and their settlements. The classroom whiteboard and PowerPoint slides will be used to explain the mechanisms and potential impacts of each of these natural phenomena and there will be electronic notes and links to supplement the face-to-face lecture.

D2L: D2L is Camosun's learning support software, and it allows you to access lecture notes, electronic lab exercises, hand in your assignments digitally, track your mark, and be alerted to upcoming due dates or changes in assignments.

Labs: There will be ten lab exercises assigned this term. These activities are designed to practically apply some of the tools of hazards assessment. Due dates will be one week from the date the lab is assigned, unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will not be accepted once marked assignments have been handed back.

Event Timeline: At the end of January, I will ask you to begin creating an event summary for an assigned natural disaster or catastrophe that has happened in the last century. You will then prepare a well-written, tightly edited summary, including an appropriate photos and links, that will be due by mid-March.

Exams: There will be two tests in this course; a midterm exam on **Thursday, February 13th**, and a final exam during the **College exam week in April**. The final exam schedule will be released in early February, and it is your responsibility to ensure you are available on the day and time of the exam. Each test will contain a series of short answer, true or false, multiple choice and long answer questions that will cover the lecture and lab content of the course. You will be provided with online lecture quizzes and checklists to prepare you for the exams.

Independent Work: When completing an exam or lab assignment, it is essential that you complete it honestly, by yourself, without assistance from AI tools or copying directly from another person. You are permitted to use web and or written resources to complete the Event Timeline, but please use your own words and be sure to reference your sources. Any non-compliance with these instructions may result in academic penalty as per Camosun's academic integrity policy (see below).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

