

CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of Social Sciences

GEOG 111
Natural Hazards
Spring 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/geog.html>

* Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Instructor | Nesha Wright |
| (b) Office hours | Wednesdays 9am-11am or by email |
| (c) Location | Online Delivery |
| (e) E-mail | wrightn@camosun.bc.ca |
| (f) Website | Camosun D2L |

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Analyze the natural environmental systems that underlie natural hazards.
2. Explain how human development and planning influence natural hazard risk.
3. Apply some basic geography analysis techniques related to natural hazards

3. Required Materials

D2L: It is essential that you have access to a computer, tablet or data-enabled phone so that you are able to access the lecture and lab material for the course. 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.

4. Course Content and Schedule

This is an asynchronous online course. This means that there are no set meeting times, but I will be available online during the office hours listed above. course will provide students with a first exposure to physical geography through the lens of natural hazards; that is, natural environmental processes that threaten human health and property. Topics will include natural and human systems that create hazards, earthquakes and related hazards, volcanoes, landslides and avalanches, coastal and river hazards, and weather- and climate-related hazards. Several lab exercises will introduce technical

skills related to hazard assessment and mitigation. An emphasis on current events will be maintained. This course is intended for both science and non-science majors.

Lectures: As this course is being offered in an online format, you will be reading your weekly lectures as .pdf files. I have written the lectures in my own 'voice' and have interspersed photos of the things I'm discussing so that you have visual distraction as you're reading.

Labs: Nine lab exercises will be assigned during the 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 (either the Wednesday or the Friday, see course outline or D2L calendar for specifics), and your completed assignment can be uploaded to the 'Assignments' section of D2L by **10am on the due date**.

Weekly Discussion: This will be a weekly post that you make (See discussion section of D2L). It does not have to be long but should reflect what has been learned through the week or related to a natural disaster that has happened in the news that week. These will be marked out of 5 and are due by **10 am every Friday** (except the first and last weeks).

Exams: There will be three tests throughout the term. These will be electronic tests available through the 'Quizzes' section of D2L. A series of short answer, true or false, multiple choice and long answer questions will cover the lecture and lab content of the course. The first will be on Thursday, May 13th the second will be on Monday, June 1st, and the third will be on during the exam period.

Textbook: Keller, E.A., R.H. Blodgett and J.J. Clague, 2015. Natural Hazards, 3rd Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 488 pp. This textbook is entirely optional for this course but please feel free to use it as a reference.

Schedule: Updated May 2, 2021 (Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor):

| Week of | Tuesday | Wednesday by 10am | Thursday | Friday by 10am |
|---------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| May 3 | Course Intro/Natural Hazard Systems/Lab 1 | | Earthquakes/Lab 2 | |
| May 10 | Tsunamis/Lab 3 | Lab 1 due | Test 1 | Weekly discussion due Lab 2 due |
| May 17 | Volcanoes/Lab 4 | Lab 3 due | Article to be assigned | Weekly discussion due |
| May 24 | Article to be assigned | Lab 4 due | Landslides/Lab 5 | Weekly discussion due |
| May 31 | Floods/Lab 6 | | Test 2 | Weekly discussion due Lab 5 due |
| June 7 | Extreme Weather/Lab 7 | | Fires and Droughts/ Lab 8 | Lab 6 due |
| June 14 | Climate Change/Lab 9 | Lab 7 due | Review | Lab 8 and 9 due |

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

EVALUATION: The final mark for the course will be determined by student performance in each of these components.

Lab Exercises 50%

Test #1 10%

Test #2 15%

Test #3 15%

Weekly Discussion 10%

Total 100%

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Competency Based Grading System

7. Recommended Materials to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Resources will be posted online as they become relevant to the topic.

8. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @ <http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. Standard Grading System (GPA)

| Percentage | Grade | Description | Grade Point Equivalency |
|------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 90-100 | A+ | | 9 |
| 85-89 | A | | 8 |
| 80-84 | A- | | 7 |
| 77-79 | B+ | | 6 |
| 73-76 | B | | 5 |
| 70-72 | B- | | 4 |
| 65-69 | C+ | | 3 |
| 60-64 | C | | 2 |
| 50-59 | D | | 1 |
| 0-49 | F | Minimum level has not been achieved. | 0 |

2. Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| Temporary Grade | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| I | <i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family. |
| IP | <i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. |
| CW | <i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement. |