

## **GEOG 306 Human Dimensions of Natural Hazards**

GEOG 306 investigates the human dimensions of the global experience with natural hazards and associated disasters. A wide range of geophysical and meteorological hazards are explored, paying particular attention to: the ways in which hazards become dangerous to humans, and the pathways by which humans can either increase or decrease their vulnerability to natural hazards. This is achieved through an examination of the disaster management cycle (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery) and the ways in which individuals, households, communities, and countries can build resilience to face future disasters. Case studies from countries and regions around the world will be used to clarify conceptual and methodological issues.

To transition the course online, there will be a mix of recorded lectures (voice-over powerpoint) and assigned readings posted on LEARN. Students can work through the material at their own pace, although there will be weekly lecture/readings quizzes (worth 10% of the final grade in the course). Five short activities will be completed throughout the term (vulnerability analysis - 15%, mitigation plan - 10%, preparedness plan analysis and reflection - 5%, media comparison - 15%, and a documentary response - 5%). Some 'class' time will be allotted for completing these assignments. A research paper (20%) and a final test (20%) completed on LEARN will make up the remainder of the final grade calculation. The research paper will allow you explore and apply course concepts to a disaster case study of your choice.

Note that the course will take place over an eleven-week period. The first ten weeks will be devoted to completing the lectures, assigned readings, quizzes, and short activities, with the research paper due at the end of the tenth week of classes. The last week (July 20 – 26) will be open for completing the final test at your convenience (on LEARN). Thus, all course activities will be completed July 26, 2020. Feel free to contact the instructor (Erin O'Connell: [erin.oconnell@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:erin.oconnell@uwaterloo.ca)) with any further questions.