

GEOGRAPHY 4451: GEOGRAPHY OF RISK AND HAZARD

Instructor: Dr R Dilley

Winter 2016: Tue/Thu 10:00 – 11:30 am

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Course Outline

In this course students will examine geographical approaches to the theoretical and applied aspects of environmental and technological hazards. Topics include the nature of risk and hazard; and the experience and reduction of hazard, from earthquakes and volcanoes to epidemic disease and nuclear waste. The required text is **Smith K (2013): *Environmental Hazards: Assessing risk and reducing disaster* (sixth edition)**. This book will be extensively used and will be essential for success in the course.

For the first two weeks the instructor will provide an introduction to Risk and Hazard from his own viewpoint and from the first section of the text (*The Nature of the Hazard*: chapters 1 to 5). Thereafter each chapter from the second section of the text (*The Experience and Reduction of Hazard*: Chapters 6-13) will be considered in sequence. For each of chapters 6 to 13, three, four or five students will be designated, each to present part of the chapter (8 to 10 minutes each) and to provide at least two questions relating to their part of the chapter for class discussion (the instructor will cover chapter 14). A one page written summary of each allocated chapter section must be handed in at the time of the presentation. *There will be a one mark deduction for each day this summary is late.*

When chapter summaries are being presented, each student will complete a number of questions relating to that day's chapter.

In most cases, once a chapter has been introduced, the next class or two will be devoted to student critiques of research articles related to the topic of that chapter. Critiques should be based on the *Guide to Analysing Articles* (posted on the course website).

- Each should last 15 (minimum) to 20 (maximum) minutes, exclusive of discussion.
- Discussion should be based on a minimum of three questions developed by the presenter.
- A three or four page written summary of the critique, without the discussion questions, must be provided at the end of the relevant class. *There will be a two mark deduction for each day this summary is late.*
- In each class when there are student presentations, each student (other than the presenter) will write a one-page summary, on a form provided, of each paper being presented.

- Each one-page oral summary missing or judged unsatisfactory will result in the loss of one mark.

Finally, each student will write a major essay, from a list of topics provided by the instructor. **This essay must be completed by March 24, as the instructor is leaving for China in mid-April.**

In addition, the instructor will attempt to persuade a small number of local experts – from the Fire Department, from Superior North EMS and from the Regional Hospital – to talk to the class about their role in risk and hazard prevention and control in Thunder Bay.

There are no tests and no final examination.

Marking scheme

Chapter summaries, oral	10%
Chapter summaries, written	10%
Chapter questions	10%
Critique(s), oral	10%
Critique(s), written	20%
Essay/Project	40%

OFFICE HOURS

I do not have an office on campus suitable for student consultation. You may talk to me before or after class. If you need a longer discussion you should make an appointment and I will find a suitable room, or we could meet in the Study or the Cafeteria. I answer emails promptly.