

GEOGRAPHY 226 (701) – OUR DANGEROUS PLANET – 3 HOURS

SPRING SEMESTER 2021
Dr. Margaret E. Crowder

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to how normal Earth processes concentrate their energies to create devastating impacts. Students will understand the physical processes behind and the spatial dimension of Earth's natural hazards and disasters with a special emphasis on surviving them. These disasters include tectonic, oceanic, and atmospheric hazards. The semester will include a discussion of how climate change may affect the risk and severity of some of these hazards.

Colonnade Program requirements: GEOG 226 satisfies WKU's Colonnade Program's requirements for the Connection-Systems (K-SY) category. To receive Colonnade credit, you must have 21 hours of Foundations and/or Explorations courses, or junior status. You cannot have taken a previous Connections course in the GEOG discipline and still receive Colonnade credit for this course.

Colonnade Learning Objectives: This course fulfills Colonnade Program's Systems category learning objectives. Students in this course will:

1. analyze how systems evolve.
2. compare the study of individual components to the analysis of entire systems.
3. evaluate how system-level thinking informs decision-making, public policy, and/or the sustainability of the system itself.

LEARNING and CONTENT OBJECTIVES

The learning and content objectives for GEOG 226 are designed to fully integrate fully with the Colonnade Program. Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. gain an understanding of the geologic and atmospheric processes responsible for natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, drought, and asteroid impacts
2. gain an understanding of the geographic distribution of natural hazards and the frequency which these hazards become natural disasters
3. gain an understanding of how society evaluates and confronts the dangers posed by these natural processes from a political, social, and ethical perspective
4. gain an understanding of how technological innovations allow an increasing human population to monitor, predict, and warn society about natural hazards and impending disasters

Course Location and Meeting Time: Synchronous online via Zoom; MWF 12:40-1:35pm

Office, Office Hours:

Office: EST, Room 312; All meetings this semester will be held online

E-mail: Margaret.Crowder@wku.edu

Phone: 745-5973

Office Hours:

2-3pm MW *Other times available by appointment*

Required Text: Keller and DeVecchio. 2019. Natural Hazards, 5th edition (separate access and purchase/separate publisher from the online Mastering material). Routledge. **There is no need to purchase the textbook separately, as both the textbook and the homework platform, Mastering Geology (see below) are included with your course billing under First Day Access.**

Additional Requirement: Access to Mastering Geology website, included with First Day Access (instructions will be given in class and via Blackboard on how to access this).

First Day Access:

This course participates in The WKU Store's First Day Access program. This program is designed to provide immediate access to required materials for all students at prices cheaper than any other option.

Required materials will be delivered to you automatically by enrolling in this course unless you choose to opt-out. By participating in this program, The WKU Store will bill your Student Billing account, and you will see a charge

appear under this Term along with Tuition and Fees (“Account Summary by Term” under the Student Services tab) labeled as “The WKU Store Purchases” after the Add/Drop period. For more information on this program or to opt-out of participation, go to the WKU Store page.

Special Instructional Materials:

A computer with Internet access is required for this course. Use of iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android, and related devices are *not* acceptable, as there is much content that will not be accessible through the web browsers available on these platforms.

Because it is essential that you have access to a computer and the internet, it is required that you identify at least one backup computer with internet access in case you have problems with your personal equipment (***any equipment problems will not be considered a valid excuse for missing assignments***). For example, the WKU student computer labs and most public libraries have computers with internet access.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to follow the WKU student code of conduct for academic honesty.

<http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php>

No plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism may result in failure of the class and/or dismissal from the University. Each student is responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. <http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php>

Privacy Policy and Internet Security: The course will be conducted online primarily through Blackboard and Zoom. Your WKU NET ID and password will give you access to Blackboard and provide a measure of privacy protection of the course content and your grades. **Do not share your ID or password or the Zoom link for the course with anyone.** If using a public computer (for example, at a hotel or library), you must log out and completely close the browser software when finished. This will prevent another person from accessing the course using your identification, doing mischief in your name, and violating the privacy of other students. You are expected to represent your identity in a truthful manner. Falsifying your identity is grounds for disciplinary action of all parties involved.

Attendance Policy: Although this class is delivered online, synchronous class attendance and participation is required. Registration in this course means that you are serious about being on time and that you are an active participant. Your regular attendance and active participation in this class are essential for your success. I certainly expect that you will attend class - you are, after all, paying for this course (!) - and I will be taking roll to document your attendance. Attendance counts toward assessment of this course (see below).

A note about attendance points:

0-3 absences = receive the full 25 possible points

4-7 absences = receive 12 points

8+ absences = receive 0 points

Absences refer to total number of unexcused absences. It is your responsibility to keep track of the number of your class absences! **Attendance means that you are present at the start of the class** when the roll is taken (**tardiness will not be tolerated!**) and that you are an active participant in class. **Excused absences will only be considered if written documentation is presented.** In the case of family emergencies, a note from a parent or other responsible party may be accepted if it contains a phone number by which I may verify your excuse. Please communicate with your instructor if there are extenuating circumstances.

If you must leave class early, notify your instructor before class begins.

Ogden Student Course Attendance Statement

The faculty and staff of Ogden College of Science and Engineering are committed to providing you with learning experiences and opportunities. You must assume ownership of your education and be an active participant in the classroom and laboratory to take advantage of these opportunities. **Active participation requires you to attend.** Scientific studies have shown that attendance during scheduled classroom and laboratory meetings is directly correlated to your performance on assignments and exams and the potential to earn higher grades. Additionally, if you do not regularly attend class, you are missing important information about course topics, due dates, and assignment details that are crucial to your success in the course. Therefore, as a student enrolled in an Ogden course, you are expected to attend every class meeting and to inform your instructor regarding the reasons for any absences as soon as practical. Your instructor may incorporate class attendance/participation as part of the grading criteria.

Student Behavior: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor; students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. All incidents of inappropriate behavior will be reported to the department and/or the Dean of Ogden College.

Statement on Masks: Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the CDC guidelines, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.

Email:

Email: I view my email at least twice a day (once in the morning and once in the afternoon). I will make every attempt to reply to your email within 48 hrs (This does not include weekends.). If you send me an email, it should contain the following:

Subject line: descriptor of nature of email; include course number
Salutation: Dr. Crowder,
Body of email: brief statement/description of your question/request
Closing: Sincerely/Regards/etc., (your name)

Assessment: Your understanding of course materials will be assessed on the basis of exams and quizzes as categorized below:

	Percent of Grade
Exams (3)	45%
Quizzes (11, lowest may be dropped)	12.5%
Final Exam (Not comprehensive)	15%
Homework, projects, Zoom class assignments, and participation (includes Mastering work and other various assignments)	25%
Attendance	2.5%
TOTAL	100%

Grades will be determined by the following guidelines:

A = 90% and above C = 70-79% F = 59% and below

B = 80-89% D = 60-69% FN = check with Registrar for full definition

Grades will not be 'curved'. NO individual extra credit will be assigned. No exceptions!

FYI: An "A" requires *extra effort* and to earn one is a great honor. Doing the bare minimum will not result in an "A." Students who earn "A's" are attentive, never (or very rarely) miss class, are prepared for the lecture, score the highest on exams, are leaders in discussions, and put extra effort into their assignments. Do not underestimate the amount of time you will need to devote to studying for this class. Just because it is a 100-level course, does not mean it is easy.

Make a habit of checking Blackboard for course announcements and information.

Nature of the Exams and Quizzes: Exam questions may consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and drawing questions. These questions will come primarily from the lecture and the textbook, but may also come from any supplemental materials posted on Blackboard or shown during class. Additionally, there will be quizzes given over the course of the semester - generally once a week other than weeks with exams scheduled. Quizzes will be online and must be completed within the times and days indicated for the

assignment on Blackboard. Dates of Exams are SET, please make note of them. Exams will be available online for limited periods of time and must be completed within the range of times indicated.

Make-up Policy: Exams will generally not be given after the day they are scheduled, nor will assignments be accepted late. In other words, **only under exceptional circumstances will there be any “make-up” opportunities for missed exams and assignments.** If you are aware of a schedule conflict that prohibits you from taking an exam or from turning in an assignment, you *must* inform me *prior* to test/assignment due date. **In the case of illness, make-up exams will only be made available to those that provide a valid written excuse.** **Written excuses must be provided *before* any make-up exam will be administered!** Arrangements for make-up work must be made as soon as possible (preferably prior to the next class meeting). **Quizzes may NOT be made up** as the lowest grade is dropped anyway.

Schedule Change Policy: The Department of Geography and Geology strictly adheres to University policies regarding schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of individual students to meet all deadlines in regard to adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waved. The Student Schedule Exception form is used to initiate all waivers. This form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented general stress factors are not considered as legitimate circumstances.

ADA Accommodation Statement:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

The Learning Center (TLC) Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing Student Union, 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. The Learning Center at Downing Student Union offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects and eight academic skill areas by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area (with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring) and a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Please call TLC in the Downing Student Union at (270) 745-5065 for more information or to schedule a tutoring appointment. www.wku.edu/tlc

Writing Center Assistance: *The Writing Center on the Bowling Green campus* is offering **only** remote assistance to writers during the covid-19 pandemic. WKU students may request feedback on their writing via email or arrange a real-time Zoom conference to discuss a paper. See instructions and how-to videos on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online synchronous (Zoom) or asynchronous (email) appointments. Students may also get short writing questions answered via email; just put “Quick question” in the subject line to (writingcenter@wku.edu).

The WKU Glasgow START Center/Writing Center will be offering writing tutoring sessions in synchronous online format as well as in person, by appointment only. More information on how to make appointments and what to expect from your appointment will continue to be posted at <https://www.wku.edu/startcenter/>.

The WKU Center for Literacy is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall 2066. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help with **reading/studying to learn** and **writing for evidence and argument**. The Center for Literacy offers both individual and small group sessions throughout the semester. Please email us at literacy.center@wku.edu to schedule an appointment or ask questions, visit our website at <http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>, or stop by GRH 2066 for more information.

Strategies for Student Success: Effective study takes time. Success at the college level probably will require more time, and more careful use of time, than many students expect. An oft-quoted rule of thumb is that *students should spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class*. Do you? If you have questions about how to take better notes, or learn more effectively, here's an excellent website for suggestions on how to achieve academic success: <http://slc.berkeley.edu/study-and-success-strategies>

General Comments

This class will be very note intensive; meaning, you will need to take notes regarding everything that I present in class and on what is discussed in class. The lecture materials will very closely follow the textbook order, although we will be jumping around a bit.

In order to do well in this course, you must spend some time - every week - studying your notes and working with the available course materials. Get in the habit of regularly spending time on all aspects of the course – it will pay off in the end both in terms of your grade and your comprehension of course materials.

***NOTE: This syllabus functions rather like a contract. By remaining enrolled in this class, it is understood that it is your responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the policies herein. The instructor will inform you as to any policy or scheduling changes and it is your responsibility to make these adjustments.**

HAVE A GOOD SEMESTER!!

Geography 226 – General Course Outline* Spring 2021

Date	Day	Topic	Chapter(s)
20-Jan	Wednesday	Introduction to Natural Hazards and the Earth System	1
22-Jan	Friday	Introduction to Natural Hazards	1
25-Jan	Monday	Earth Structure & Plate Tectonics	2
27-Jan	Wednesday	Earth Structure & Plate Tectonics	2
29-Jan	Friday	Earth Structure & Plate Tectonics	2
1-Feb	Monday	Earth Structure & Plate Tectonics	2
3-Feb	Wednesday	Earthquakes	3
5-Feb	Friday	Earthquakes	3
8-Feb	Monday	Earthquakes	3
10-Feb	Wednesday	Earthquakes	3
12-Feb	Friday	EXAM 1	
15-Feb	Monday	Tsunamis	4
17-Feb	Wednesday	Tsunamis	4
19-Feb	Friday	Tsunamis	4
22-Feb	Monday	Volcanoes	5
24-Feb	Wednesday	Volcanoes	5
26-Feb	Friday	Volcanoes	5
1-Mar	Monday	Flooding	6
3-Mar	Wednesday	Flooding	6
5-Mar	Friday	Flooding	6
8-Mar	Monday	EXAM 2	
10-Mar	Wednesday	Mass Wasting	7
12-Mar	Friday	Mass Wasting	7
15-Mar	Monday	Mass Wasting	7
17-Mar	Wednesday	Subsidence & Karst	8
19-Mar	Friday	Subsidence & Karst	8
22-Mar	Monday	Subsidence & Karst	8
24-Mar	Wednesday	Atmosphere & Weather	9
26-Mar	Friday	Atmosphere & Weather	9
29-Mar	Monday	Hurricanes	10
31-Mar	Wednesday	Hurricanes	10
2-Apr	Friday	EXAM 3	
5-Apr	Monday	Coasts	11
7-Apr	Wednesday	Coasts	11
9-Apr	Friday	Climate Change	12
12-Apr	Monday	Climate Change	12
14-Apr	Wednesday	Climate Change/Wildfires	12; 13
16-Apr	Friday	Wildfires	13
19-Apr	Monday	Extinctions	14
21-Apr	Wednesday	Project Day	
23-Apr	Friday	Project Day	
29-Apr	Thursday	FINAL EXAM 1-3pm	