



Our Dangerous Planet - GEOG 226

Fall 2023

Section 701- Second Bi-Term Webcourse

October 16 – December 7, 2023

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Office: Environmental Science & Technology Building (EST) 437
Office Hours: **Tuesday & Thursday** : 9:30am-12:30pm or by appointment.
Textbook & Software: *No textbook required. Instructor will provide all learning resources and software.*

Syllabus Topics

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SYLLABUS TOPICS

Course Requirements, Learning Objectives & Grading

Course Description:

This is an introductory course on how natural earth processes can result in devastating impacts to the planet in terms of landscapes, climates, and the biosphere (with an emphasis on humanity). Students will understand:

- the physical processes behind Earth's natural hazards and disasters both on a geologic, historic and current time scale.
- the methods used to predict such natural disasters
- risk factors associated with earth's natural disasters in terms of human impacts

Colonnade Natural Science Requirement-new students

For new students, this course fulfills the Colonnade Natural Science requirement (Explorations, non-lab).

General Education Science Requirement – for returning students

For returning students this course fulfills the General Education Category D Science (non-lab) requirement. This course is the equivalent of the old Geology 102 and Geography 100 courses. Student cannot earn credit for Geology 102 and Geography 100 and this course(Geology/ Geography 103) since they are the same course. Students taking Geol/Geog 103 from Fall 2014 onwards to satisfy the old General Education Science requirement will need to complete an ICAP exception form to substitute this course for Geology 102 or Geography 100 (see your advisor).

Learning Objectives for Colonnade Program:

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

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

1. Understand geologic and atmospheric processes responsible for natural disasters and the geologic and atmospheric processes responsible for natural hazards, including earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, wildfire, flood, drought, tornadoes/hurricanes/cyclones, avalanche, landslides, asteroid impacts, climate change
2. Understand the geographic distribution of natural hazards and the frequency which these hazards become natural disasters
3. Know how society evaluates and confronts the dangers posed by these natural processes from a political, social, and ethical perspective
4. Know how technological innovations allow an increasing human population to monitor, predict, and warn society about natural hazards and impending disasters

Blackboard:

Blackboard is required for this course. All assignments, quizzes, grades, and announcements will be made available to the class through Blackboard at <https://blackboard.wku.edu>. Students will also utilize the site for submitting assignments.

Technology Requirements:

You must have access to a reliable Internet connection. It is suggested that Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome are used as the main browser, as Blackboard often has trouble with Internet Explorer.

Grading:

Students grade performance will be based on participating and completion of assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects. A student earns the grade of 'A' by consistently producing excellent work **on time** and exemplary performance on exams and assignments. Adequately completing all assigned work, having successful exams, and contributing to class discussions on a semi-regular basis will result in a grade of 'B' for the course. If a student fails to participate regularly in class discussion or submits work/exams that is late, inconsistent with course standards, and/or incorrect will earn a grade of 'C' or below.

Grade allocations are as follows: A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 59% or less FN: failed for non-attendance.

Grades of Incomplete (X) will only be assigned if all but a small portion of coursework is left incomplete and the inability to complete the course is due to circumstances beyond the control of the student. An "X" will be given at the instructor's discretion.

Course, University and College Policies

Full Use of AI Permitted:

In this class you are free to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT) on assignments and activities in this course. If you chose to utilize AI, you will be expected to properly document and cite this information. For this course, we will use APA format for citations (*examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.*)

Make-up Exams & Late Assignments

Student should contact instructor if they cannot take the exam when scheduled. Arrangements for make-up exams can be made *within reason*.

Late Assignments will be accepted on a limited basis and within reason.

Ogden Student Course Attendance Statement:

Since this is a web class there is obviously no physical attendance. But students should be checking in to Blackboard at least once/week for instructions for assignments, quizzes, and exams. Every time a student checks the Blackboard course site that visit is time-stamped – so instructor knows who is actively participating.

Schedule Change Policy:

The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences strictly adheres to University policies,

procedures, and deadlines regarding student schedule changes. It is the sole responsibility of the student to meet all deadlines regarding adding, dropping, or changing the status of a course. Only in exceptional cases will a deadline be waived. The Student Schedule Form requires a written description of the extenuating circumstances involved and the attachment of appropriate documentation. Poor academic performance, general malaise, or undocumented stress will not be considered legitimate circumstances.

COVID Statement:

All students are strongly encouraged to [get the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in [Kentucky](#), 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 can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center ([SARC](#)): [270-745-5004](#) (voice), [270-745-3030](#) (TTY), or [270-288-0597](#) (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Academic Integrity:

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. WKU adheres to a strict policy against plagiarism and cheating (see Scholastic Dishonesty Code in your Handbook). Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated, and appropriate penalties will be faced by anyone who violates this policy. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. All academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism. Other examples of academic dishonesty include but are not allowing other students to copy your work, using work from previous semesters, and plagiarism. To take exams with the help of someone else in the class or notes/book is considered cheating.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an 'F' with special designation for plagiarism/cheating. This will remain on your permanent academic record. For more information:

<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>

Title IX/Discrimination and Harassment:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) 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, Deborah Wilkins, 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](https://www.wku.edu/titleix/) at 270-745-3159. <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/>

Student Disability Services:

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 without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

You will be able to check your grades in an online grade book. You can ask the instructor about grades via email, but in accordance with the federal law we are am not allowed to reply in any detail using email, unless instructor has student's written permission. Furthermore, if you are 18 years old or older, instructor cannot discuss student grades or participation in the course with their parents.

Student Resources

Technical Support

Technical support can be obtained through the WKU IT Department, which can be linked to here (<http://www.wku.edu/it/>) and can be contacted by phone at 1-270-745-7000. This department can help you with email, Blackboard, or other technical issues. I highly suggest using this service if you are having computer issues. The service is provided free of charge to students.

The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www.wku.edu/tlc.

The Writing Center:

The Writing Center has locations in Cherry Hall 123 and in the Commons at Cravens Library on the Bowling Green campus. The Glasgow Writing Center is in room 163 on the Glasgow campus. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions on the website (www.wku.edu/writingcenter) for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment. More information about the Glasgow Writing Center hours can be found at the website: <http://www.wku.edu/glasgow/writingcenter.php>.

Other Student Resources:

Student Code of Conduct:

<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php/>

Student Handbook:

<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/index.php>

Student Resource Portal:

<https://www.wku.edu/online/srp/>