

## GEOGRAPHY 226 (C75) – OUR DANGEROUS PLANET – 3 HOURS

SUMMER 2020

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

A detailed course outline is available via Blackboard. You need to post your assignments by specified deadlines, so you should always check the Course Outline at the beginning of each new week. Then you can plan when you will do your work. ALL work will be posted to Blackboard for assessment.

**Course Location and Meeting Time:** Online, through Blackboard and the Mastering Geology platform.

#### Office, Office Hours:

Office: Zoom – see Blackboard

E-mail: [Margaret.Crowder@wku.edu](mailto:Margaret.Crowder@wku.edu)

Phone: 745-5973

Office Hours: Email for assistance and/or schedule an online or in-person meeting

**Required Text:** Keller and DeVecchio. 2016. Natural Hazards, 4th edition (separate access/separate publisher from the online Mastering material). Routledge.

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

**Day One Access:** This course participates in The WKU Store's Day One 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. The WKU Store will charge your Student Bill after the Add/Drop period, and you will see a charge appear under this Term along with Tuition and Fees ("Account Summary by Term" under the Student Services tab) labelled as "Day One Access". For more information on this program or to opt-out of participation, go to our information page, <http://www.wkustore.com/t-day-one-access.aspx>.

**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\***).

**Student Behavior and Communications:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining an online environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an equal opportunity of success in this course, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. All course communications are limited to the subject material of the course and all communications are monitored by the instructor. Inappropriate online behavior with the instructor or any student shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. All incidents of inappropriate behavior will be reported to the Department Head and the Dean of Ogden College. Students should also report inappropriate online behavior to the instructor.

**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. 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 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.

### **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.

**Email:** 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%
Final Exam (Not comprehensive)	15%
Homework, projects	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	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.

**Course Evaluation:** You will be evaluated through completion of numerous on-line activities this semester. Work will be directed through Blackboard. ALL work is to be submitted to Blackboard for evaluation. It is your responsibility to keep track of each assignment and due dates. For information on grading/credit for Mastering assignments, see the individual assignments in Mastering.

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

**Make-up Policy:** Exams will generally not be given after the day they are scheduled. Other assignments may receive partial credit if they are late, but some assignments may receive no late credit at all – see individual assignments for information. **Only under exceptional circumstances will there be any "make-up" opportunities for missed exams and assignments.**

**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, 1074. 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) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at [https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf). 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 270-745-319.

**The Learning Center (TLC):** Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center 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](http://www.wku.edu/tlc)

**Writing Center Assistance:** 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 located 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](http://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://wku.edu/startcenter/writingcenter.php>

**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](mailto: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:** In order to do well in this course, you must spend a great deal of time - every week - completing assignments and working with the available course materials. Get in the habit of regularly spending time on all aspects of the course - it is very easy to get behind, especially in a summer course and it is very difficult, if impossible to catch up. Spending the time you need on the materials each day 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.** Syllabus is subject to revisions by instructor – the entire class will be notified via Blackboard of any alterations to this syllabus.

General course outline to be posted to Blackboard.