

## Topics in Toxicology, BMB960-002, 1 Credit, Spring 2026

**Title:** Environmental Disasters in the U.S.: History, Impact, and Responses

**Location:** 162 FST

**Class Hours:** Wednesday 2:00 pm

**Participating Faculty:** Heather Guetterman ([guetter1@msu.edu](mailto:guetter1@msu.edu))  
Bryan Copple ([copple@msu.edu](mailto:copple@msu.edu))  
John LaPres ([lapres@msu.edu](mailto:lapres@msu.edu))

**Description:** The United States has experienced a number of notable environmental disasters, including some here in the State of Michigan. This course will use a case-based approach to examine the cause of these disasters, the government response and the emerging role of academia in understanding the impact of these disasters on the public. Depending on the number of students who enroll in the course, each participant will be required to present 1 or 2 of the cases. These presentations should focus on the history, cause, and impact of the disaster. Moreover, a portion of the presentation should discuss the response from the community, government and other interested parties.

**Grading:** The course will be graded. The grade assignment will depend upon attendance, participation, and the quality of the presentation(s) that are delivered.

**Prerequisites:** At least one graduate course in physiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology.

**Limitation:** 14

**Dates:**

Class Date	Class Topic
14-Jan	Introduction to course, expectations and scheduling
21-Jan	Exposure Science
28-Jan	Community Engagement
4-Feb	Risk Assessment & Communication
11-Feb	Love Canal - History
18-Feb	Love Canal -Public and Government response
25-Feb	Cuyahoge River Fire
4-Mar	No Class- Spring Break
11-Mar	Times Beach Missouri
18-Mar	PBBs in Michigan
25-Mar	Tennessee Coal Ash Spill
1-Apr	BP Oil Spill
8-Apr	Flint Water Crisis
15-Apr	Palastine Train Derilment
22-Apr	Wrap up and Discussion