

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

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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 Week	Class Topic
12-Jan	Introduction to course, expectations and scheduling
19-Jan	Exposure Science
26-Jan	Community Engagement
2-Feb	Risk Assessment & Communication
9-Feb	Love Canal - History
16-Feb	Love Canal -Public and Government response
23-Feb	Cuyahoga River Fire
2-Mar	No Class- Spring Break
9-Mar	Times Beach Missouri
16-Mar	PBBs in Michigan
23-Mar	Tennessee Coal Ash Spill
30-Mar	BP Oil Spill
6-Apr	Flint Water Crisis
13-Apr	Palastine Train Derilment
20-Apr	Wrap up and Discussion