

ACADEMIC COURSE DESCRIPTION – ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMICAL RISKS

MASTER'S DEGREE  
**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY**  
 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR OF STUDY, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMICAL RISKS
COURSE CODE	31020030010PM1212218
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle (master's degree)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	2 <sup>nd</sup> year of study, 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	7
NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	4 (2 lecture hours + 2 seminar hours)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Professor Ovidiu Gabriel Iancu
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Professor Ovidiu Gabriel Iancu
PREREQUISITES	-

**A GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES**

**General competences:**  
 → The ability to formulate and defend logical arguments on topics pertaining to the academic discipline

**Course-specific competences:**  
 → The creative application of the methods used in geochemical research for the understanding of issues related to the quality of Earth's subsystems

**B LEARNING OUTCOMES**

→ Students accumulate knowledge on the main geochemical hazards and risks (some known as "technological hazards") and on the measures taken to prevent or mitigate them

→ Students become capable of assessing the probability of a community being affected by an environmental hazard, despite the safety measures in place

**C LECTURE CONTENT**

Week	Title of lecture	Teaching methods	Duration
1	Risk, hazard, vulnerability – general notions	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
2	Nuclear technological accidents	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
3	Oil spills	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
4	Gas emissions associated to eruptive volcanic processes	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
5	Gas emissions associated to non-eruptive volcanic	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours

		processes		
6		Tailings piles and their environmental impact	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
7		Tailings ponds and their environmental impact	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
8		Solid waste and its impact (waste management)	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
9		Soil pollution with heavy metals	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
10		Pollutants in surface water bodies and groundwater	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
11		The influence of the geological substrate on radon emissions	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
12		Environmental risks related to radioactive waste	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
13		Particulate matter and atmospheric pollution	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours
14		Global warming or climate change?	Lecture based on video projection	2 hours

#### D RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES

Förstner U. (1998) *Integrated pollution control*, Springer Verlag, 505 p.  
 Pirone N., Mahaffey K. R. (2005) *Dynamics of mercury pollution on regional and global scales*, Springer Verlag, 744 p.  
 Reeve R. N. (2002) *Introduction to environmental analysis*, John Wiley & Sons.  
 Vallero D. A. (2004) *Environmental contaminants: Assessment and control*, Elsevier Academic Press, 801 p.

#### E SEMINAR CONTENT

Week	Title of seminar	Teaching methods	Duration
1	The Chernobyl nuclear accident	Video projection; debate	2 hours
2	The Exxon Valdez spill	Video projection; debate	2 hours
3	The Bhopal accident	Video projection; debate	2 hours
4	Icelandic eruptive processes whose gas emissions have impacted the environment	Video projection; debate	2 hours
5	Solid waste management case study: Naples	Video projection; debate	2 hours

	6	Tailings ponds and tailings piles and their environmental impact	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	7	The proper management of radioactive waste – examples	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	8	The assessment of air quality	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	9	The geochemistry of atmospheric radon and its environmental impact – case studies	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	10	Acid rain	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	11	The environmental impact of pesticides	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	12	The distribution of heavy metals in urban soils. Case study: the city of Iasi	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	13	Romanian and European legislation on the evaluation and remediation of contaminated sites	Video projection; debate	2 hours
	14	Paper presentations	Assessment	2 hours
<b>F</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS</b>			
	<p>Bell F.G. (2003) <i>Geological Hazards: Their Assessment, Avoidance and Mitigation</i>, CRC Press, 660 p.</p> <p>Popek E. (2003) <i>Sampling and analysis of environmental chemical pollutants. A complete guide</i>. Academic Press, 366 p.</p> <p>Paul B. K. (2011) <i>Environmental Hazards and Disasters: Contexts, Perspectives and Management</i>, Wiley-Blackwell, 322p.</p> <p>Sigurdsson H., Houghton B. F., McNutt S. R., Rymer H., Stix J. (2000) <i>Encyclopedia of Volcanoes</i>, Academic Press, San Diego, California.</p>			
<b>G</b>	<b>EDUCATION STYLE</b>			
LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS	Lecture based on video projection; debate; individual study			
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Written examination and continuous assessment (lecture) – 30%; paper presentations (seminar) – 70%			
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English			