26 December 2004 introduced to the global lexicon a new term; tsunami. While tsunami waves have been well-known to the coastal engineering and geophysical communities for decades, their profile among the public at large had been previously quite low. In addition to the unprecedented impacts of the December tsunami, it has proved remarkable in terms of the level of real-time video and photographic documentation.

This seminar will review the basics of tsunami generation, propagation, and dissipation. Additionally, a historical review of some of the significant tsunami events over the past century will be provided.