

**GEOMORPHOLOGY / AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION (ES322)
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Fall 2009 Term - Western Oregon University
4 CR TR 2:00 - 3:50 PM Natural Sciences Bldg, Rm 218

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. S. Taylor

OFFICE: RM 210 Natural Sciences Bldg

OFFICE HOURS: M, R 4-5 PM;
By Appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Geomorphology is the study of the Earth's surface landforms and the processes that operate to form them over geologic time (10^2 to 10^6 years). This course will examine a wide variety of landforms and processes, with an emphasis on those associated with Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Studies will include systematic analysis of weathering processes, soils, mass wasting, fluvial systems, glacial phenomena, tectonic landscapes, volcanic areas, and coastal regions. Class lab exercises will include interpretation of aerial photographs, map analysis, and quantitative (algebra, trigonometry, and statistics) approaches to geologic problem solving.

THE PROFESSOR'S PHILOSOPHY ON UPPER DIVISION EARTH SCIENCE / GEOLOGY COURSES:

The upper division Earth Science / Geology course sequence is designed for mature, serious students who are willing to work hard, play hard, have fun, and learn in-depth skills / concepts in a professional academic setting. By default, our student population is very diverse with a wide array of skills, interests, and career goals. The student population ranges from serious Earth Science majors with focused career objectives, to Geology / Earth Science minors to Science Education majors. As such, the professor is charged with serving a diverse array of student interests and career goals in the most professional manner possible. The problem-solving and technical skills acquired via training in the Earth Sciences are highly valuable (and marketable), regardless of career track. Students are expected to actively participate in the learning process and make a significant contribution to the academic integrity of the Earth Science program at Western Oregon University. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide graduates with the academic skills that will enable them to be highly competitive in graduate school or the career marketplace. *GO TEAM!*

TEXT AND READING:

Ritter, D.F., Kochel, R.C., and Miller, J.R., 2002, **Process Geomorphology 4th Ed.**: W.C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA, 539 pp.

Handouts / online resources / journal articles provided by instructor.

CLASS NOTES:

A comprehensive set of instructor class notes are available for download via the internet. The class web site is at URL <http://www.wou.edu/taylor> ... and follow the links to the "ES322" home page.

The class notes are available as Adobe Acrobat Reader files (*.pdf file). Acrobat Reader is free and is installed on many campus PC's. For home installation, Acrobat Reader is also available for download at the class web site, but you will be responsible for properly installing the software.

Based on prior student suggestions, I have assembled my class notes and made them available. These notes may be freely printed at any campus internet station (e.g. ITC Bldg - Student Lab, Library, local department computer labs). The notes are in outline form and are very comprehensive. "Exam Study Guides" will also be posted on the web site as the term progresses.

EVALUATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS:

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of 2 exams (Mid-term, Final) and weekly lab exercises. The following is a breakdown of evaluation points, dates, and letter grades:

Mid-Term Exam	100 pts
Final Exam	125 pts
Class / Lab Exercises	150 pts
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TOTAL:	375 pts

Final Grading Scale

Percent Range of Total Points	Letter Grade	Percent Range of Total Points	Letter Grade
94-100%	A	77-79%	C+
90-94%	A-	73-76%	C
87-89%	B+	70-72%	C-
83-86%	B	67-69%	D+
80-82%	B-	63-66%	D
		60-62%	D-
		<60%	F

Exams: Exams will be administered at evenly spaced increments throughout the semester; the final will be 20% comprehensive with test material drawn from throughout the term. Exams will largely consist of essay questions and homework-type problems. *Warning: the exams are very comprehensive and will likely require a full 2+ hours to complete, please plan accordingly.*

Make-Up Exams: Under NO circumstances will make-up exams be administered without prior arrangement (at least five days) and good reason. Please show up on exam day!

Class and Lab Assignments: Class and lab assignments will be worked BOTH during class time and outside of class time each week. You will have lab, reading, and homework assignments that **may** take up to 3 or 4 hours to complete outside of class time, maybe more in some cases, depending on your skill levels and ability. Please plan your schedule accordingly. Due dates for class exercises will be prescribed by the instructor. Late work will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date, but will be automatically assessed a penalty of -20% of the point total.

Due to the volume of students assigned to the instructor each term, he will not be able to grade the lab exercise work in detail. The homework and lab assignments will be checked for completeness, with questions randomly chosen for content and accuracy. Grade points will be assigned on the basis of these two criteria. Exercise answer keys will be posted on the class web site by the instructor. **It is your responsibility to: (1) check your work against the lab / homework keys, (2) make sure you understand how to complete the exercises, (3) find help if you have trouble with lab exercises, and (4) study / learn the exercise skills and material for the exams.**

A Note About Incompletes: No incomplete grades will be given during the last week of class. If you have a problem that warrants an incomplete, make arrangements prior to the last week (no exceptions!!).

FIELD TRIP(S):

Local field trips and field exercises may be scheduled during the term as time permits. Please be aware that additional scheduling and personal time may be required as the course develops. One confirmed day-long field trip is set for Tuesday October 19, 2009 to the national meeting of the Geological Society of America in Portland. We will have a van going up to the meeting for the day, leaving ~8:00 AM and Returning ~ 6 PM. Other field trip ideas (during class time) this term include field data collection in the Luckiamute river basin and the Monmouth cemetery.

STUDENT HONOR POLICY:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes copying others work and using cheat sheets on exams. However, students are encouraged to interact in small groups during class assignments, i.e. you can freely discuss concepts in all portions of the class, except exams.

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Students will also need access to a scientific calculator, colored pencils, ruler, and protractor. You will be required to use these materials during lecture, lab, and exams. Please plan accordingly, or you will have trouble successfully completing the class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Any student who has a disability that requires accommodation, please make an appointment to see me.

A NOTE ABOUT THE LAST WEEK OF CLASS:

Given that the Oregon University System employs the "quarter method" of academic scheduling, upper division courses are by nature "compressed" with much detailed information to cover in a relatively short period of time. Please note that most upper division text books are geared for courses at universities with a 16 week semester system (i.e. we are truly trying to pack 10 pounds of soil in a 5 pound bag). As such, the 10th week of class is as critical to content coverage as the 1st week. Students should anticipate a full slate of "normal" activities during the last week of class, including lectures, lab exercises, written reports, etc. The class is not over until after the final exam! **Plan your schedule accordingly!**

A NOTE ABOUT LOST OR MISSING WORK

The instructor will only grade work that is received and physically visible. Any missing work (lab assignments, homework, quiz/test answer sheets) will receive a "0" on the grade sheet. This policy applies to work lost by the student or instructor. If the student demonstrates that the work was turned in, but is missing due to the instructor's error, then the student will be afforded an opportunity to make up the work and resubmit it for graded credit. Otherwise, the student will not receive credit for lost or missing work.

CHANGE OF SYLLABUS - POP QUIZZES - UNANNOUNCED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and class schedule at any time during the term. Students will be notified of such changes in a timely manner. The instructor also reserves the right to administer pop-quizzes and assign unscheduled homework / class assignments at any time. All students will be responsible for completing this work and it will comprise part of the final class grade.

LAB PORTFOLIOS-ASSIGNMENT/LAB EXERCISE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE: In-class assignments, homework, and lab exercises are to be completed by the prescribed due date (to be determined as term progresses). Your assignments will be compiled into a lab portfolio consisting of the three-ring binder, with organized tabs / labels. Your lab portfolios will be graded once at midterm and once at finals time.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: This outline should be considered tentative at best. The following schedule may be modified as class ideas evolve throughout the semester.

Week	Dates	Class Content	Ritter Text Reading
1	Sept. 29, Oct. 1	Class Introduction / Basic Principles	Chap. 1-2
2	Oct. 6, 8	Weathering and Soils	Chap. 3
3	Oct. 13, 15	Mass Wasting	Chap. 4
4	Oct. 20 Oct. 22	Day-long field trip to GSA Meeting Portland Fluvial Part 1	Chap. 6-7
5	Oct. 27, 29	Fluvial Part 2; Glacial	Chap. 9-10
Exam 1 – Thursday Oct. 29			
6	Nov. 3, 5	Glacial Part 2; Deserts	Chap. 8
7	Nov. 10, 12	Volcanic Landforms	Online Notes
8	Nov. 17, 19	Tectonic Geomorphology	Online Notes
9	Nov. 24	Coastal Geomorphology	Chap. 13
No Class November 26, Thanksgiving Break			
10	Dec. 1, 3	Coastal (Cont.), Quaternary History	Chap 13
11	Dec. 7-11	Finals Week - EXAM 2 (check schedule)	

Possible Lab Exercises (to be scheduled as time permits)

Lab No.	Topic
1	Review of Map Basics
2	Introduction to Landscape Analysis
3	Air Photo Interpretation (Parts 1 and 2)
4	Field Trip to Monmouth Cemetery (Historic Weathering Rates)
5	Humans as Geomorphic Agents / Weathering Rates
6	Soil Surveys as a Tool for Geomorphic Mapping
7	Field Fluvial Geomorphology (Parts 1 and 2)
8	Alluvial Fan Morphometry
9	Climate Change and Morphodynamics of Grinnell Glacier, MT
10	Tectonic Geomorphology of Steens Mountain, OR
11	Neotectonics of Western Oregon and the Pacific Northwest
12	Coastal and Beach Processes of Oregon
13	Online Review Questions