

GEOG 322 Geomorphology

Lecture: T,Th: 8:30-9:50, 240A Mckenzie

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Course Description

Geomorphology is the study of the landforms at or near the Earth's surface, and the processes that create and modify them over time. In this class, we will investigate the composition, structure, function, and spatial distribution of landforms both descriptively and quantitatively. Topics covered will include:

- Hillslopes: Weathering and soils, mass wasting
- Rivers and fluvial landscapes, coastal environments
- Desert geomorphology
- Glacial and periglacial landscapes
- Quaternary climate change and geomorphology



Grading: Two exams (45%), In class quizzes/assignments (18%), Four lab exercises (32%)

Course materials: Required readings: Ritter, D.F., et al. 2006. Process Geomorphology (5th ed.) Waveland Press.

Exams (44% of total grade): There will be two exams: Exam 1 (24%), Exam 2 (20%) of total grade. There are no make-ups for exams. Students who miss a test without a documented excuse will receive a score of ZERO for that test. Except in the case of true emergencies, you must contact me prior to the exam if you are going to miss it; otherwise you will receive a grade of zero.

In class Quizzes/Assignments (12% of total grade): There will be several quizzes or in class assignments regarding the reading or research on a relevant topic.

Lab/Exercises (43% of total grade): There will be a total of four lab assignments (at 8% each) that we may begin in class and that you are required to finish on your own time. NO late labs will be accepted. A paper copy of each lab assignment must be turned in my 5pm on the due date.

Picture of the Day Extra Credit: You will have the opportunity to present pictures of geomorphic features you have taken (or of somewhere you have been or would like to go). Presentations will take place at the beginning of class (1-2 minutes in length) and include a description of the location and geomorphic processes that created this feature. This is to encourage students to examine the geomorphic features they have observed in person. You can receive a maximum of three points on your total lab grade (1 point per presentation with a maximum of three presentations).

Grades: Grades will be posted on blackboard along with any announcements and lecture notes. I reserve the right to offer extra credit, but you should not expect it or ask for it. Due to privacy laws, I do not discuss grades via email. If you have questions about your grade(s), please make an appointment with me or with your GTF to discuss your concerns.