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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**GEOG276: Introduction to Geomorphology**

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*In grateful acknowledgement of the L'kwungen & W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples upon whose territories we are able to live and learn.*

**Course materials and instructions will be made available on Brightspace ([bright.uvic.ca](http://bright.uvic.ca)). Please read this outline and further instruction carefully.**

The laboratory component of this course is supported by Senior Laboratory Instructor Gillian Krezoski ([gkrezoski@uvic.ca](mailto:gkrezoski@uvic.ca)) and TA Wyatt Maddox ([wrmaddox@uvic.ca](mailto:wrmaddox@uvic.ca)). You can find all lab assignment and supporting material on Brightspace. All contact information and lab details will be provided.

**Instructor:** Dr. Sophie Norris

**Office Hours:** Friday 11:30 am- 12:30 pm or by appointment (my office David Turpin Building B128)

**Contact:** [sophienorris@uvic.ca](mailto:sophienorris@uvic.ca)

**Lectures:** T, W, F 11:30 am – 12:20 pm (A01) - David Turpin Building A120

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Geomorphology** is the study of the surface of the Earth. What makes geomorphology different from the other earth science fields is that it is primarily rooted in the explanation of present landforms and active processes. From the perspective developed by studying the present, geomorphologists may seek to interpret the importance of past events on present landforms.

This course examines a variety of geomorphological processes and systems. The goal is to provide students with an appreciation of how the landscape around them formed and its continued evolution with particular focus on landscapes of British Columbia, Canada, and western North America.

**KEY THEMES:**

1. Recognise and describe the characteristics of common landforms.
2. Understand and explain the physical principles of common geomorphic and hydrologic processes, and the functioning of the water and sediment cascades.
3. Explain landform development in relation to the relevant geomorphic and hydrologic processes and anticipate the effects of environmental change on both the processes and landforms.
4. Discuss, with the help of case examples, the application of geomorphology and hydrology to environmental management.

## RECOMMENDED TEXT

Paul R. Bierman and David R. Montgomery. Key Concepts in Geomorphology – either 2013 (1<sup>st</sup> edition) or 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). E-book can be accessed here:

<https://store.macmillanlearning.com/ca/product/Key-Concepts-in-Geomorphology/p/1319059805>

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## EVALUATION

The course grade will be based on the following

		Date (or date due)	Weight	Subject
1	Quizzes	2 quizzes (5% each) – Dates TBA	10 %	Lecture, text and labs topics
2	Mid-Term Test	Listed below	20 %	Lecture and text materials
3	Final Exam	Will be posted	30 %	Lecture and text materials (all)
4	Labs	Detailed breakdown to follow in sections	40 %	Varied

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## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good</b> and <b>solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
<b>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>

Undergraduate Advisor: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)

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## POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

**Extension on lab assignments will not be offered in this course. If you are unable to complete your lab assignment by the due date you will receive 0% for this lab assignment. If an assignment is missed due to an extenuating circumstance, attend your instructor's (Dr. Sophie Norris) next available office hours to discuss the possibility of a make-up assignment. A new make-up laboratory assignment will be issued in extenuating circumstances only and with appropriate documentation as necessary.**

## POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

The lecture quizzes, midterm and final are based on lecture and lab material – attendance is strongly recommended.

Lab marks are almost half of your final grade – attendance is strongly recommended.

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

- **Midterm Examination: February 14th** MC/Short answer/Long answer, 50 minutes
  - **Final Examination: Apr TBA** MC/Short answer/Long answer, ~2-2.5 hrs
- Two quizzes will be administered throughout the term on lecture topics covered in the previous weeks.

WEEK	DATE	Lecture Topic	Chapter Pages for Recommended Readings (1 <sup>st</sup> ed); (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed)
1	Jan 8-12	1&2_ Introduction	5-30; 4-28
2	Jan 15-19	3&4_ Weathering and Soil	77-110; 120-157
3	Jan 22-26	5&6_ Geomorphic Hydrology	111-137; 86-112
4	Jan 29-2	7&8_ Hillslope Geomorphology (Quiz 1)	145-177; 165-197
5	Feb 5-9	9&10_ Fluvial Geomorphology	179-251; 199-269
6	Feb 12-16	11&12_ Review & Mid Term (Midterm Feb 14th)	5-251; 4-269
7	Feb 19-23	Reading Break- no classes or office hours	-
8	Feb 26-1	13&14_ Karst Geomorphology	133-137; 109-112
9	Mar 4-8	15&16_ Glacial Geomorphology	291-315; 373-399
10	Mar 11-15	17&18_ Coastal Geomorphology	316-324; 399-410
11	Mar 18-22	19&20_ Periglacial Geomorphology (Quiz 2)	253-287; 271-304
12	Mar 25-29	21&22_ Aeolian Geomorphology	329-354; 311-338
13	Apr 1-5	22&23_ Landscape evolution & Final Review	461-494; 491-524

## DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

## LABORATORY COMPONENT

Labs are designed to cover a variety of exercises designed to elaborate on the lecture material. The labs are also used to teach practical skills in geomorphology. The laboratory sessions will be supervised by

teaching assistants who will also be responsible for the assessment of lab work. Lab sessions will be held in David Turpin Building B303 at the following times:

Tues B01 (14:30-16:20) TA: Gillian Krezoski (gkrezoski@uvic.ca)  
 Wed B02 (12:30-14:20) TA: Gillian Krezoski (gkrezoski@uvic.ca)  
 Thurs B03 (14:30-16:20) TA: Wyatt Maddox (wrmaddox@uvic.ca)  
 Fri B04 (9:30-11:20) TA: Wyatt Maddox (wrmaddox@uvic.ca)

WEEK	DATE	Lab Schedule	Due dates:
1	Jan 8-12	No Labs	
2	Jan 15-19	Lab 1: Minerals (4%)	
3	Jan 22-26	Lab 2: Weathering (4%)	Quiz Lab 1 (in lab)
4	Jan 29-Feb 2	Lab 3: Sediments (4%)	Lab 2 due before class
5	Feb 5-9	Lab 4: Glacial Isostasy* (8%)	Lab 3 due before class
6	Feb 12-16	No labs - Mid term	
7	Feb 19-23	Reading Break - no classes	
8	Feb 26- Mar 1	Lab 5: Glacial Geomorphology (10%)	Lab 4 due before class
9	Mar 4-8	Lab 5: In-class work period	
10	Mar 11-15	No Labs	
11	Mar 18-22	Lab 6: Glacial Landscapes* (10%)	Lab 5 due before class
12	Mar 25-29	No labs	
13	Apr 1-5	No labs	Lab 6 due Apr 5 (11:59)

\*Denotes Outdoor Labs – dress for the weather.

All assignments will be submitted to Brightspace Dropbox before the due date.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submissions, and aiding others to cheat.**

### Policy on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/archives/202205/undergrad/index.php#/policies>.

If you have any questions, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see

[uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

## ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL as soon as possible <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>). The RCSD staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

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## SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)

Web: [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp)

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## COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

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### NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* [uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://uvic.ca/services/counselling/)

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* [uvic.ca/services/health/](http://uvic.ca/services/health/)

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* [uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/). *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.*

[uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)