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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**GEOG 476 ADVANCED STUDIES IN GEOMORPHOLOGY**

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**Coastal bluffs in Helliwell Provincial Park, Hornby Island**

*I express my gratitude and respect to the the lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an advanced, project-based investigation for senior students in geomorphology. In this course you will work on your own datasets to develop a testable hypothesis, conduct data analysis, and practice the presentation of findings in form of a poster and journal-style report. In the lectures, we will examine spatial data analysis techniques, time series analysis, and numerical modelling in Geomorphology. Your performance will be evaluated based on the different project components (proposal, seminar, poster, report). More details on expectations regarding the different project components will be provided in class.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you should be able to

- Conduct a literature review and summarize key aspects of a geomorphological research problem
- Critical evaluate the performance of a generative AI for literature research
- Develop a testable hypothesis given a dataset, and write a proposal around the hypothesis
- Detect pattern and processes in field data using advanced geomorphological research approaches
- Prepare quality graphics for presentation of results
- Present your results in form of a talk to an audience of your peers
- Prepare a journal-style research report

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## PREREQUISITES

GEOG 376; permission of the instructor

**Class Meetings:**                      Fridays                      9:10 to 11:50 am                      David Turpin Building A251

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Dr. Eva Kwohl**, Department of Geography, **DTB B123a**, [ekwohl@uvic.ca](mailto:ekwohl@uvic.ca)

**Office Hours:**    Tuesdays 11:00 to 12:30 pm or by appointment

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication in this course ([bright.uvic.ca](http://bright.uvic.ca)). This is where all important resources are uploaded, including course information, topic slides, important dates, announcements, lab materials, and TA information (email addresses and office hours). Please go here first and visit often. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), Tel: 250-721-7687

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## RECOMMENDED TEXTS

As part of your project preparation you will be asked to familiarize yourself with the literature on your research topic. For this you are expected to use online resources to browse the peer-reviewed literature. We will also test AI's capability to do so. In addition, I recommend the following E-book that is downloadable through the library:

Shroder, John F et al. (2013) Treatise on Geomorphology, Elsevier/Academic Press, Amsterdam.  
Downloadable as EBook here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/referenceworks/9780080885223>

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
- Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)
- Department Chair: Dr. David Atkinson [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)

## EVALUATION

### Quantitative Exercises

Spatial Analysis in Geomorphology (Jan 16, 9 am)	5%
Numerical Analysis in Geomorphology (Jan 23, 9 am)	5%
Temporal Analysis in Geomorphology (Jan 30, 9 am)	5%

### Geomorphological project

AI Literature Review (Feb 13, 5 pm)	15%
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### *Project components done in groups:*

Proposal presentation (Feb 27)	15%
1-page written Proposal (Mar 6, 9 am)	10%
Research Presentation (Mar 27)	15%
Project Report (April 8, 5 pm)	30%

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

	Week	Wednesday	Assignments
<b>1</b>	Jan 5-11	Intro & Spatial Analysis	
<b>2</b>	Jan 12-18	Numerical Analysis	Exercise due
<b>3</b>	Jan 19-25	Temporal Analysis	Exercise due
<b>4</b>	Jan 26-Feb 1	Group Work / Mandatory Meeting with Instructor	Exercise due
<b>5</b>	Feb 2-8	Group work	
<b>6</b>	Feb 9-15	Meetings with Instructor	Lit Review due
<b>7</b>	Feb 16-22	Reading Break	
<b>8</b>	Feb 23–Mar 1	Proposal Presentation	
<b>9</b>	Mar 2 - 8	Scientific Writing / Figures/ Presentation	Written Proposal due
<b>10</b>	Mar 9-15	Group Work	
<b>11</b>	Mar 16-22	Group Work / Mandatory Meeting with Instructor	
<b>12</b>	Mar 23-29	Final Presentation	
<b>13</b>	Mar 30-Apr 5	No class	Research Report due

## DISCLAIMER

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

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## COURSE POLICIES

Students are expected to attend all lectures and labs. A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected, particularly in the labs.

**Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit.** Failure to complete any evaluation component without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

Late assignments will be penalized 20% per day (weekends count as one day). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Please inform me (Eva) of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. **Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.**

Students will not be permitted to write make-up tests except for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Any make-up test or examination may not follow the same format as the in-class one. Please inform me (Eva) of your situation promptly and present written proof within five working days. **Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.** Conflicts with holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred exam or assignment extension.

Please attend only the laboratory section for which you are registered. If you must miss a lab for exceptional circumstances, please make arrangements with your TA and Instructor in advance to join another section. This however does not change the due date of your lab assignment.

Details regarding your labs and their marks are managed by the course TAs. Please discuss any issues or questions on lab content with your TA first and then direct questions at the instructor if you would like further clarification.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments independently.

## 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 submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

*Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI for preparation of your assignments. In order to successfully complete the assignments, generative AI is not required nor welcomed. Students should not make any use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, among others that use AI for content generation and editing. As the University of Victoria states on its Academic Integrity Policy "Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility." Note: The AI – Literature Research Exercise is an exception to this rule.*

## 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 ([uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/)). The CAL 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.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE RESOURCE OFFICE (SVRO)**

If you have been directly or indirectly impacted by sexualized violence, reach out to the SVRO for information, advice, resolution options (restorative and disciplinary) as well as support options and referrals. The SVRO is both survivor-centred and trauma-informed in their approach.

[eqhr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eqhr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

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

## **EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)**

UVic Equity and Human Rights is a resource for students, staff and faculty who have experienced discrimination and harassment and are looking for informal and formal resolution options as well as advice, coaching and/or education. We are available for confidential consultations so that you can ask questions and learn your options.

[eqhr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eqhr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

[www.uvic.ca/equity](http://www.uvic.ca/equity)

## **RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor ([geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, [cindyann@uvic.ca](mailto:cindyann@uvic.ca)), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

## **Student Experience of Learning (SEL) survey**

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 (SEL). 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 online and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Important Dates:**

Jan 5: First term classes begin for all faculties

Jan 18: Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees for standard first term and full year courses

Jan 21: Last day for adding courses that begin in the first term

Feb 8: Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses

Feb 28: Last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure

Apr 2: Last day of classes in first term for all faculties

**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 and 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 and 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.