

University of Victoria
Department of Geography

GEOG 276 – INTRODUCTION TO GEOMORPHOLOGY SPRING 2015

Instructor: Dan Smith
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Course Lectures: DTB A110, Tuesday and Wednesday, 1130-1220 hrs

Department of Geography Information

Geography Department website: <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography>
GEOGPLAN degree planning guide: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/moodle> [Log in as a guest]
Undergraduate Advisor: Phil Wakefield (philw@geog.uvic.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

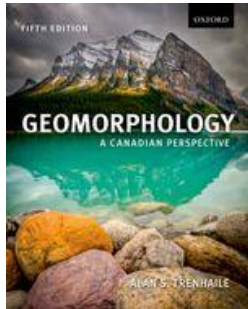
Geomorphology is the study of the surface of the Earth. What makes geomorphology different from the other earth science fields is that it is primarily rooted in the explanation of present landforms, though these surfaces may be ancient, and secondarily in active processes, processes that can be, at least theoretically, observed as they occur. 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.

At the conclusion of the course you should be able to:

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.

COURSE TEXTBOOK



Alan Trenhaile. **Geomorphology: a Canadian Perspective.** Oxford University Press, Toronto, 5th edition.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Lectures: The lectures build from the relevant readings in the textbook to set out the main ideas, theories and conceptual frameworks for the course. Lectures will synthesize materials from a range of sources, including your own prior knowledge and experiences. You should come prepared for each lecture. This means you should have read and considered the relevant chapter. From a time management perspective, this means you will need to allocate approximately three hours per week for basic reading.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Topic 1: Introduction to Geomorphology
- Topic 2: Tectonic Geomorphology
- Topic 3: Weathering Processes and Landforms
- Topic 4: Mass Wasting Processes and Landforms
- Topic 5: Glaciers, Glacial Processes and Landforms
- Topic 6: Periglacial Processes and Landforms
- Topic 7: Coastal Geomorphology
- Topic 8: Fluvial Processes and Landforms
- Topic 9: Geomorphology of Karstic Landscapes
- Topic 10: Aeolian Geomorphology
- Topic 11: Applied Geomorphology

Laboratory Sessions:

Labs will be used for completion of a variety of exercises designed to consolidate and elaborate on the lecture material. The labs are used to teach and apply some simple practical skills in geomorphology and will involve short field excursions. The laboratory sessions will be supervised by teaching assistants who will also be responsible for assessment of lab work. During the lab sessions you may occasionally be asked to work and report in small groups. Details will be given to you in the lab sessions, including dates for handing in the graded reports. There is no laboratory manual for the course.

	No Lab	Week of Jan. 6th – 10th
	Introduction	Week of Jan. 12 th – 16 th
Lab 1	Tectonic geomorphology	Week of Jan. 19 th – 23 th
Lab 2	Slopes (Mt. Tolmie)	Week of Jan. 26 th – Feb 6 th
	No Lab - Reading week	Week of Feb. 9 th – 13 th
Lab 3	Glacial geomorphology (Greater Victoria area)	Week of Feb. 16 th – 27 th
Lab 4	Coastal geomorphology (Cadboro Bay)	Week of Mar. 2 nd – 13 th
Lab 5	Applied geomorphology	Week of Mar. 16 th – 28 th

COURSE EVALUATION

Laboratory assignments 25%

Mid-term examination 25%

Final examination 50%

COURSE EXAMINATIONS

Exam Dates:

1. Mid-term Examination Tuesday, February 24th, 2014: Short written answer, mid-term examination in class.
 2. Final Examination, TBA: Three hour final exam with both short answers and essay type questions. The final examination will cover all aspects of the course, including the lab component and readings. Do not make any firm travel plans until you know the date of the final exam.
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UNIVERSITY GRADING AND POLICY INFORMATION

Plagiarism: A student commits plagiarism when he or she: submits the work of another person in whole or in part as original work; gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student's work, including failing to indicate clearly the inclusion of another individual's work ; and, paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement.

Multiple submission: is the resubmission of work by a student that has been used in identical or similar form to fulfill any academic requirement at UVic or another institution.

Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation: includes, fraudulently manipulating laboratory processes, electronic data or research data in order to achieve desired results; using work prepared in whole or in part by someone else (e.g., commercially prepared essays) , and submitting it as one's own; citing a source from which material was not obtained; using a quoted reference from a non-original source while implying reference to the original source; submitting false records, information or data, in writing or orally.

Cheating on Work, Tests and Examinations: Cheating includes, but is not limited to: copying the answers or other work of another person; sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations except where the instructor has authorized collaborative work; having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners ; accessing unauthorized information when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations; impersonating a student on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such Impersonation; accessing or attempting to access examinations or tests before it is permitted to do so. It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

Aiding Others to Cheat: It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

Penalties for First Academic Integrity Violation

In situations where a determination is made that a student has committed a first academic integrity violation, the following penalties will normally be imposed. Single or multiple instances of inadequate attribution of sources should result in a failing grade for the work. A largely or fully plagiarized piece of work should result in a grade of F for the course.

Multiple Submission Without Prior Permission: If a substantial part of a piece of work submitted for one course is essentially the same as part or all of a piece of work submitted for another course, this should result in a failing grade for the assignment in one of the courses. If the same piece of work is submitted for two courses, this should result in a grade of F for one of the courses. The penalty normally will be imposed in the second (i.e., later) course in which the work was submitted.

Falsifying Materials: If a substantial part of a piece of work is based on false materials, this should result in a failing grade for the work. If an entire piece of work is based on false materials (e.g., submitting a commercially prepared essay as one's own work), this should result in a grade of F for the course.

Cheating on Exams: Any instance of impersonation of a student during an exam should result in a grade of F for the course for the student being impersonated, and disciplinary probation for the impersonator (if he or she is a student). Isolated instances of copying the work of another student during an exam should result in a grade of zero for the exam. Systematic copying of the work of another student (or any other person with access to the exam questions) should result in a grade of F for the course. Any instance of bringing unauthorized equipment or material into an exam should result in a grade of zero for the exam. Sharing information or answers for take-home assignments should result in a grade of zero for the assignment when such sharing covers a minor part of the work, and a grade of F for the course when such sharing covers a substantial part of the work.

Undergraduate Grading Scale			
Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage *	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90 – 100 85 – 89 80 – 84	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77 – 79 73 – 76 70 – 72	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
C+ C	3 2	65 – 69 60 – 64	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.
D	1	50 – 59	A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.
COM	Excluded Grade	N/A	Complete (pass). Used only for 0-unit courses and those credit courses designated by the Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings.
CTN	Excluded Grade	N/A	Continuing . Denotes the first half of a full-year course.
Failing Grades	Grade Point Value	Percentage *	Description
E	0	0 – 49	Conditional supplemental. Supplemental examinations are not offered by all departments and the allowable percentage may vary by program (e.g. 35-49). Students will be advised whether supplemental will be offered and if the percentage range varies when assessment techniques are announced at the beginning of the course.
F	0	0 – 49	F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.
N	0	0 – 49	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.
N/X	Excluded Grade	N/A	Did not complete course requirements by the end of the term; no supplemental. Used only for Co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.
F/X	Excluded Grade	N/A	Unsatisfactory performance. Completed course requirements; no supplemental. Used only for Co-op work terms and for courses designated by Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings. The grade is EXCLUDED from the calculation of all grade point averages.

The grading scale for the evaluation of course achievement at the University of Victoria is a percentage scale that translates to a 9 point GPA/letter grade system. The 9 point GPA system is the sole basis for the calculation of grade point averages and academic standing. Standardized percentage ranges provide the sole basis for assignment of letter grades.

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