



COURSE OUTLINE
GEOG 376 PROCESS GEOMORPHOLOGY (CRN: 11820)

Office Hours: M 2:00 – 4:00 pm, or by appointment

Office Location: DTB B124

Contact: ekwohl@uvic.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the Introductory Geomorphology Course (GEOG 276). Here, you will dive into the processes that create and maintain landforms. You will learn about geomorphic systems, the principle forces behind geomorphic change, feedbacks, and process linkages in natural systems. You will explore the mechanics behind the creation and transport of sediment from hillslopes to low-lying coastal areas and the formation of characteristic erosional and depositional landforms. The course is divided into 4 major topics, including hillslope, fluvial, coastal + aeolian, glacial + periglacial processes. You will learn about traditional and more advanced research methods in Process Geomorphology and apply some of these techniques in lab exercises. You will also hear regularly from guest speakers about ongoing research and in this field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course the students will be able to

- Explain the principle forces and feedbacks driving geomorphic processes on Earth
- Apply basic physical relations to solve geomorphic problems
- Evaluate the suitability of research methods for a given research problem
- Critically reflect on scientific articles on geomorphic research

REQUIRED TEXTS

Throughout this course, I will provide a number of scientific articles and reading assignments that will be announced in class. Most of these articles will stem from:

Schroeder, J. (Editor in Chief) et al. (2013). Treatise on Geomorphology. Available online as html or PDF via Uvic Library E-book. ISBN: 978-0-12-398353-4. DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-12-374739-6.09021-7

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

This is a very comprehensive text book that was traditionally used in this class. A copy of it will be on reserve in the library. It will be useful to prepare for exams or find additional literature:

Ritter, D.F., R.C. Kochel, and J.F. Miller (2011). Process Geomorphology (5/e). Waveland Press (ISBN 13: 978-1-57766-669-1).

EVALUATION

Reading Quizzes	10%
Lab assignments	30%
Mid-term I	15%
Mid-term II	15%
Final Exam	30%

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent 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-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid 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.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
- Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield – geogadvisor@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

<https://coursespaces.uvic.ca>

All relevant course material will be posted here.

POLICIES

1. Labs:

- Lab assignments are an essential part of GEOG376. Students are required to **complete all assignments and obtain a passing grade** to obtain credit for this course.
- Labs are due 2 week after assigned unless specified otherwise (s. timetable below).
- All details regarding labs & their marks are managed by your TA. Please attend only the section for which you are registered.
- Please bring: calculator, ruler, protractor, and any other supplies recommended. Software for spreadsheet analyses and graphing (e.g., MS Excel, Open Office, etc.) will also be required for some labs and will be announced. Most computing labs on campus are equipped with this software.
- To help reduce the environmental impact of paper consumption, please submit assignments printed on both sides of the paper. Your TA may also agree to electronic (e.g., PDF) submissions, but please check with her/him personally.

2. Lateness policy:

- A deduction of 10% of the total mark per weekday (weekends count as 1 day) will be applied to all late lab assignments. Accommodations are made only for extenuating circumstances with proper medical or counselling documentation provided. Extensions are only granted through prior consultation with the instructor.

3. Quizzes:

- Reading Quizzes consist of short (15 min), multiple choice questions about the reading assignments for each thematic block. The quizzes are scheduled on Mondays (s. timetable below) in the second week of each block.

3. Examinations:

- The Mid-terms will be held during lecture on the dates shown below.
- Mid-terms comprise 60 min of short-format questions.
- Exam attendance is mandatory. Exceptions will be made only under the following conditions:
 - the instructor is informed in person before the exam that the absence will occur. *Note: do not sit an exam if you are ill, provide medical documentation in advance.
 - the student has proper written documentation of a serious medical or compassionate cause for the absence AND this documentation is provided either before or immediately after the exam;
 - see UVic Course Calendar for official university guidelines. Please feel free to contact the course instructor with any concerns.

PLAGIARISM

If you include external sources in your lab assignments you must use proper citation and follow good scientific practice. For more details on when and how to cite, please see:

<http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/>

The labs will involve group work, however each student must submit their own lab assignment. Penalties will be given for duplicated assignments.

Policy on Academic Integrity: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015-01/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcl.html>

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to

approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. 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.

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.

Lecture Outline (subject to change)

Week	Dates	Monday	Thursday	Lab	Quiz
1	02.09-08.09	LABOUR DAY	Introduction		
2	09.09-15.09	Key Concepts			
3	16.09-22.09	Hillslope Processes		Lab 1, due week 5	Quiz 1
4	23.09-29.09	Fluvial Processes			
5	30.09-06.10			Lab 2, due week 8	Quiz 2
6	07.10-13.10	THANKSGIVING DAY	Midterm I		
7	14.10-20.10	Coastal and Aeolian Processes			
8	21.10-27.10			Lab 3, due week 10	Quiz 3
9	28.10-03.11	Glacial Processes			
10	04.11-10.11			Lab 4, due week 13	Quiz 4
11	11.11-17.11	REMEMBRANCE DAY	Midterm II		
12	18.11-24.11	Periglacial Processes			
13	25.11-01.12	Course Review	Course Review		
14	02.12-08.12	Geomorphology Today			