

Course Syllabus
Geomorphology - GEOG 2550 A01
Department of Environment and Geography
Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

Instructor: Dr. Janna Wilson

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:30 – 12:30 PM
Wednesday: 5:30 – 7:00 PM
Subject to change

Or by appointment; please email

Lecture Slot: M/W/F: 9:30 - 10:20 AM

Lecture Room: 243 Wallace Building

Course Dates: Sept. 10 – Dec. 9, 2015

Final Exam: TBA
Examination Period: Dec. 11 -23, 2015

Final Voluntary

Withdrawal Date: **November 12, 2014**

Required Course Materials:

Textbook: Bierman, P.R., and Montgomery, D.R. (2014). *Key Concepts in Geomorphology*. New York, NY: Macmillan Education.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-3860-1

Note: *If you are using a different textbook than Bierman and Montgomery, the readings designated in the outline portion of this syllabus may not correspond. You may use any book you want, but it is at your own risk.*

Course Description

(Formerly 053.255) This half-course surveys a broad array of landforms in the world and the geomorphic processes responsible for their creation. Attention is strongly focused on those landform processes originating at the Earth's surface. Prerequisite: GEOG 1200 or GEOG 1201 (053.120) (C), or GEOG 1280 or GEOG 1281 (053.128) (C) or GEOG 1290 or GEOG 1291 (053.129), or permission of department head.

Course Objectives

This course surveys important concepts in geomorphology, focusing on examples of landforms and processes that do contribute, or have contributed in the past, to the appearance of the Canadian landscape. With its immense size, Canada has a wide variety of landscapes in which tectonic, weathering, mass wasting, fluvial, glacial, periglacial, coastal, and karst processes are currently active. Past events also need to be considered to fully understand the Earth's surface landforms.

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the important concepts of landforms and geomorphic processes.
- Describe examples of landforms and processes that do contribute, or have contributed in the past to the appearance of the Canadian Landscape.
- Acquire the basic technical skills required in geomorphology, including the mastery of vocabulary, and the ability to find relevant literature and resources in the library and on the internet.

Method of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated via two midterm tests (2 x 20% = 40%), one final Exam (30%), 3 assignments (collectively worth 30%).

Midterm Test I (Part A): Oct. 9; 50 minutes (20% of course value)

Midterm Test II (Part B - cumulative): Nov. 9; 50 minutes (20% of course value)

Final Exam (Part C - cumulative): TBA (30% of course value)
Examination Period: Dec. 11-23, 2015

Assignments (30%)

A 1: Landform proposal & Annotated Bibliography (10%): Oct. 23

A 2: Landform Concept Sketch (15%): Nov. 20

A 3: Landform Presentation (5%): Dec. 4, 7, 9

The Grade distribution for this course is as follows:

A+: 90% or above (Exceptional)

A: 80 - 89% (Excellent)

B+: 75 - 79% (Very Good)

B: 70 - 74% (Good)

C+: 65 - 69% (Satisfactory)

C: 60 - 64% (Adequate)

D: 50 - 59% (Marginal)

F: ≤ 49% (Failure)

Note: Students are not permitted to submit “bonus” assignments in addition to the regular term tests and final exam to improve their grade. The grading scheme is set and cannot be adjusted for any reason

Test and Final Exam Format:

- Multiple choice, short and long answer questions, concept sketches/diagrams will be based on lectures, assigned readings, videos, class discussions and activities, and the corresponding readings in the course textbook.
- Students who miss a test due to a documented medical or personal emergency will be offered a rewrite. **See Policy Regarding Missed Tests.**

Assignments:

- Students are required to submit a hardcopy of all their assignments. Digital copies will not be printed or graded.
- Assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the due date as either a **hard copy or digital copy (submitted online through UM Learn)**. **Reminder that if a digital copy is submitted, the hard copy must be submitted the following work day and must be an exact replica.**
- Extensions without penalty will be granted only if accompanied by a medical certificate. Please note that computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for late assignments. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**
- Ten percent (10%) a day will be deducted for late assignments, including weekends commencing as soon as the submission deadline has lapsed. Assignments will no longer be accepted one week after the due date.
- If you are having difficulty with completing an assignment on time, please talk to the instructor ahead of time, as alternate arrangements may be possible.

Test and Final Exam Regulations:

- In all tests and exams, **NO** dictionaries, digital dictionaries, notes, books, textbooks, cellphones, PDAs (such as Palm Pilots) or text messaging devices are allowed.
- Students are responsible for appropriately concealing their test and exam answers in order to prevent copying by other students. Allowing another student to copy off of your test/exam is considered cheating, and therefore academic misconduct.

Policy Regarding Missed Tests:

- You must inform the instructor promptly (within **24 hours** or as soon as physically possible by **email**).
- Absence from tests must be justified by a medical or personal emergency – appropriate supporting professional documentation must be provided by the student for university records. Your medical documentation **MUST** be legible and state that you were **UNABLE** to attend class and write the test or exam due to a medical circumstance. A note that you “saw a doctor” is **NOT** considered medical documentation.
- Documentation must be presented within **48 hours** of the missed test in order to qualify for a make-up test. Please note that “reasonable reasons for missing a test or exam” do **NOT** include: vacations (even with relatives), long weekends away; other course work. Etc.

Grades:

- Students are responsible for ensuring test and assignment grades have been recorded correctly in *UM Learn*.
- Students have five (5) days after the in-class test review/return or assignment return to discuss any grading concerns.
- After this five-day period, **NO** changes will be made.

Policy Regarding Missed Final Exam

- The preliminary exam schedule is subject to change.
- If you cannot take the final examination due to illness or compassionate distress (documented), you must fill in a request for a deferred examination with your **own faculty** office. A courtesy email to the instructor is also appreciated.
- Department of Environment and Geography schedules deferred exams for this course once the required paper work has been received from the student's home faculty.
- Students will be notified by the Department of Environment and Geography via email when the deferred exam is scheduled.
- Students must bring student ID or photo identification to the deferred exam.

GEOG 2550 COURSE APPROACH AND POLICIES

Course Delivery:

- Course material will be delivered primarily through lectures, videos, in class discussion and corresponding textbook readings.
- Lecture notes will NOT be posted online; however, materials to 'complement' the course lectures will be posted on *UM Learn* including partial course notes (fill in the blank). It is your responsibility to access *UM Learn* and download these materials: <https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/>
 - **Please note that I am under no obligation to post my PowerPoint notes; they are intended to assist you and not replace your personal notes.**
- For assistance *UM Learn*:
 - Client Services Help and Solutions Centre (204.474.8600)
 - Email: support@cc.umanitoba.ca
 - 123 Fletcher Avenue (Mon to Fri: 8:00 AM. - 8:00 PM)
- The pace of the lecture is based on the partial course notes.
- These online materials are not a substitute for coming to class, and you cannot use these notes exclusively as they will need to be supplemented by notes from lecture and the textbook. ***If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the missing notes from a classmate. The instructor will not provide notes for any reason.***
- Students are **NOT** permitted to partially or entirely photograph, audio, or video record lectures.
- Cell phone policy: Be Respectful

Communicating with your Instructor:

- **Effective September 1, 2013**, the U of M will only use your university email account for official communications, including messages from your instructors, department or faculty, academic advisors, and other administrative offices. http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/email_policy/
- All communications must be professional and courteous.
- **E-mails** must include:
 - The subject heading (**GEOG 2550**, a salutation (i.e. Dear, Hello, Good Morning . . .), and your full name
 - Come from a University of Manitoba Account (. . . @myumanitoba.ca)
 - Emails that do not conform to the above will not be returned.
- Allow at least **48 hours** for response (weekdays only).
- Emails requesting notes, information discussed in class or information found in the course syllabus will not be returned.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend Class
- Be Courteous
- Remain available for all classes and the final exam period
- Inform instructor promptly if you miss a quiz, test, or final exam
- Forward your *U of M* email account to an email account that you consult regularly.
- Read the textbook. Not all the textbook will be covered in the lectures but may be covered in the test or exam.
- Not all material covered in the lecture is found in the course textbook.
- Disruptive behavior, which includes disrespectful cell phone use will not be tolerated.

Respectful Work and Learning Environment (RWLE)

RWLE Policy, Section 2.4: The University of Manitoba does not condone behaviour that is likely to undermine the dignity, self-esteem or productivity of any of its members and prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment whether it occurs on University property or in conjunction with University-related activities. Therefore, the University of Manitoba is committed to an inclusive and respectful work and learning environment, free from:

- a. discrimination or harassment as prohibited in the Manitoba Human Rights Code;
- b. sexual harassment; and
- c. personal harassment

RWLE Policy, Section 2.1.4.2: The University does acknowledge the legitimate right and responsibility of academic staff members to correct inappropriate student behaviour, insist on order in the classroom and evict, as necessary, those who disrupt order in the classroom. [See Bylaw: Student Discipline.]

Academic Dishonesty

Students are responsible for ensuring they understand the University of Manitoba's policy on Academic Integrity (plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation). These policies are available in the University Catalog 2013-2014, General Academic Regulations (Section 8: Academic Integrity).

The penalties for plagiarism and cheating are severe and range from receiving a grade of zero on an assignment, to academic suspension. **For more information on Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fraud:** http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/cheating_plagiarism_fraud.html

Important Dates

September 10: Lectures Begin

October 12: Thanksgiving – NO LECTURES

November 11: Remembrance Day – NO LECTURES

November 18: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal

December 9: Last day of Lectures

December 11-23: Final Exam Period

Course Outline

(there will be variation in the lecture schedule as the class progresses)

PART I: Geomorphology and Its Tools

Chapter 1: Earth's Dynamic Surface

Chapter 2: Geomorphologist's Tool Kit

PART II: Source to Sink

Chapter 3: Weathering and Soils

Chapter 4: Geomorphic Hydrology

Chapter 5: Hillslopes

Chapter 6: Channels

Chapter 7: Drainage Basins

PART III: Ice, Wind, and Fire

Chapter 9: Glacial and Periglacial Geomorphology

Chapter 10: Wind as a Geomorphic Agent (time permitting)

PART IV: The Bigger Picture

Chapter 14: Landscape Evolution (time permitting)