GEOMORPHOLOGY Syllabus Fall 2007 (Netoff)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Course: GEO 442W (geomorphology) (Lecture and lab = 4 credits)

Instructor: Dennis Netoff
B.A. Chico State College, Chico, CA
Ph.D. and M.A. University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Office: Lee Drain 322

Office hrs.: To be announced

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Prerequisites: GEL 133

Text: ***none. WEB sites, plus I will have some reference texts that you may check out.*** **(Optional)** *Dictionary of Geological Terms. Reading the Earth: Landforms in the making (by Wyckoff, 1999). Messages in Stone: Colorado's Colorful Geology (Colorado Geological Survey)*

Lab materials: 3-ring binder

Format: 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of lab/week.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course focuses on surficial geological processes and the resulting landforms. Specific topics include landscape processes associated with streams, glaciers, wind, coasts, mass wasting, weathering and soil development, geologic structure, and igneous activities. Labs emphasize landform analysis through interpretation of topographic maps and aerial photos.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to (1) identify specific landforms and landform assemblages that are characteristic of certain processes and structures by analyzing topographic maps and aerial photos, and (2) provide a rational explanation of the processes that create a large variety of fluvial, glacial, coastal, eolian, volcanic, and structurally pre-conditioned landforms.

IV. GRADING POLICIES

Grades are performance-based. A combination of announced quizzes (6-8), exercises, and projects, each component of equal weight, will make up the lecture/lab grade.

No makeups are given for quizzes, exercises, or projects. No extra credit. Missed quizzes/exercises/projects are recorded as zeros.

Grading scale: 85-100% = A; 75-84% = B; 60-74% = C; 50-59% = D

Students with a disability which may affect their academic performance can arrange for a conference with the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester in order that appropriate achievement strategies can be considered.

V. ATTENDANCE POLICY

The University requires each instructor to keep a record of attendance. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the hour. Tardies count as absences. An important part of the learning process takes place in the lecture and lab portion of this course. Class attendance and participation are therefore strongly encouraged. You have ***12 'free' hours*** of absence; beyond that limit, the course grade becomes an automatic ***F***.

VI. CLASS CONDUCT, CHEATING, PLAGIARISM

Actions that are detrimental to the learning environment of the class (talking, use of cell phones, leaving in mid-lecture, sleeping, tardies) will receive one warning & then will be dropped from the class. Cheating, dishonesty, and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and may, as a minimum, result in course failure.

VII. VISITORS

Visitors (family, friends, etc.) are allowed in the classroom only by pre-arrangement with the instructor.

VIII. COURSE CONTENT

Lecture Topics	*Lab (tentative)*
Overview-	Topographic maps, aerial photos
Weathering- physical chemical biological	Weathering features
Karst landscapes	Karst landscapes
Soils	
Mass Wasting causes types geomorphic expression	Mass wasting
Fluvial landscapes hydraulic variables erosion, transportation, deposition channel forms drainage patterns landscape evolution through time humid vs. arid landscapes rejuvenation	Fluvial landforms (2 or 3 labs)
Structurally-conditioned landscapes horizontal structure folded structure joints and faults	Structurally-conditioned landforms.
Eolian landforms erosional processes and forms depositional features loess sheets eolian dunes	eolian landforms
Volcanic landscapes	Volcanic landforms
Coastal landscapes wave development and characteristics nearshore current systems erosional processes and forms depositional processes and forms	Coastal landscapes
Glacial landscapes Pleistocene climatic change alpine glaciation continental glaciation periglacial processes and forms	Alpine glacial landscapes Continental glacial landscapes