

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Department of Geography

AP/SC/GEOG 2600 3.0 Geomorphology I

Course Outline - Fall, 2019

Prerequisites

AP/SC/GEOG 1400 or permission of the course director

Lectures

Tuesday 12:30 – 14:20

Thursday 13:30 – 14:20

Ross N120

Course Director

Joshua Thienpont, PhD, FRCGS

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Course Description

This course concentrates on basic principles and fundamental concepts in geomorphology, including energy flows in geomorphic systems, hill slope forms and materials, weathering and landforms, and drainage basin geomorphology and hydrology (with a particular emphasis on Canadian examples). The course starts with a brief survey of the history of geomorphological thought and the development of geomorphology as a science. It then surveys modes of formulating significant geomorphological questions and predominant types of investigation. The course then concentrates on basic principles and fundamental concepts in geomorphology. The course is process-oriented. The main topics addressed include the systems approach, energy flows, plate tectonics, volcanicity, weathering, slope forms and materials, drainage basins and hydrology, glacial, fluvio-glacial, periglacial processes and landforms, coastal and desert geomorphology. The course is a prerequisite for Geomorphology II which looks at more fundamental processes such as entrainment of sediment, transport and deposition in greater detail.

Course Materials

Textbook:

Required: Trenhaile, A.S. 2016. *Geomorphology. A Canadian Perspective* (6th Ed.), Oxford University Press, Toronto.

Available at the campus bookstore

Course website:

GEOG2600 will have an active Moodle environment that will be your primary hub for all information related to the course. Please check Moodle regularly for the most up to date course information and news.

iClicker (Reef) Cloud:

During lectures we will be using the iClicker Cloud (aka iClicker Reef) software to conduct informal polling and review. The software, and thus polls, can be accessed via your smartphone, laptop, or tablet devices. In order to use this software you will need to sign up for an account if you have not already done so. Once that is completed add **AP/SC/GEOG2600A LEC** to your courses.

Find more information, and links to download the app at: <http://its.info.yorku.ca/polling-student/>

Piazza:

This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion (or trying it out at least, it is new to me). The system is catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza, where everyone can contribute, and learn from, answers. I will speak about Piazza more in the first week of class.

Find our class page at: <https://piazza.com/yorku.ca/fall2019/geog2600/home>

Tentative Schedule and Topics for the Course
(Subject to modification)

Lectures:

Date	Class Topic	Readings
Sept 5	Intro to Course and Policies	
Sept 10 / 12	Introduction to Geomorphology in Canada	Chapter 3
Sept 17 / 19	Weathering Processes	Chapter 4, pp 100 – 123
Sept 24 / 26	Slope Forms and Processes	Chapter 5
Oct 1 / 3	Intro to Glacial Processes	Chapter 6
Oct 8 / 10	Glacial Landforms	Chapter 7
Oct 15 / 17	Fall reading week	
Oct 22 / 24	Ice Sheets and Geomorphology	Chapter 8
Oct 29	Midterm Exam – in class	
Oct 31	Guest Lecture – Speaker To Be Announced	TBD
Nov 5 / 7	Permafrost Landscapes	Chapter 9
Nov 12 / 14	Introductory Fluvial Geomorphology	Chapter 10
Nov 19 / 21	Coastal Processes and Landforms	Chapters 12, 13
Nov 26 / 28	Aeolian and Karst Environments in Canada	Chapter 15, pp 511 - 515
December, TBD	FINAL EXAM	

Tests / Examinations

There will be a test on the content of Chapter 2 “The Driving and Resisting Forces” of the textbook. This chapter reviews several of the background concepts we will consider throughout the term that you are likely familiar with from GEOG 1400. We will be applying these ideas to the specific processes and landscapes of geomorphological interest from a Canadian perspective. As such, I’d like you to review these ideas on your own time and complete a Moodle-based test on them. The test will be available for completion **until Friday October 4, 2019**. The test will account for 10% of your mark in the class.

There will be a mid-term examination in-class on **October 29, 2019**, covering class and textbook material presented prior to the reading week break. Test material will focus on topics covered in both the lecture and textbook readings. The midterm exam will account for 20% of your mark.

The final exam for the class will occur in the university’s scheduled exam period in December, which runs from **December 5 – 20, 2019**. It is your responsibility to ensure you are available to write this exam, whatever date it is scheduled during this window. Do not make end of term travel plans until the confirmed date of the exam is released by the university. The final exam for the course will be cumulative in nature, covering all of the material and textbook readings assigned throughout the term. The final exam will account for 30% of your mark.

Assignments

Assignment #1 - Geomorphology Methods

Due October 10, 2019 by 21:00 uploaded to Moodle

Assignment #2 – Everyday Geomorphology

Due November 21, 2019 by 21:00 uploaded to Moodle (unless other arrangements are made with the course director / TA)

Marks Breakdown Summary

Assignment #1: Geomorphology Methods	20%
Assignment #2: Everyday Geomorphology	20%
Test #1 (Moodle)	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grades

90%-100:	A+	60-64:	C
80-89:	A	55-59:	D+
75-79:	B+	50-54:	D
70-74:	B	40-49:	E
65-69:	C+	0-39:	F

Course and University Policies

Late assignments:

The time the assignment is uploaded to Moodle will be recorded, and late assignments rounded up to the next day. You will be allowed a total of 4 “free” late days for both assignments. After

this point, late assignments will receive a deduction of **20% per day**, unless a doctor's note is provided. Requests for extension, accompanied by appropriate documentation, must be made via email to the course director prior to the due date of the assignment. The teaching assistant will not grant extensions.

Missed exams:

It is the student's responsibility to be available to take examinations in the scheduled times. Formal requests for deferred examinations must be accompanied by the appropriate paperwork and documentation. Students missing the midterm will be required to write a final exam worth 50% of their course mark.

Email Policy:

Instructor-student interaction occurs in the classroom and during office hours. Please include "GEOG2600" in the subject line of all emails. Email contact is limited to questions requiring simple yes/no answers, making appointments, and dealing with emergencies. Please come to my office hours or see me after class if you wish to discuss matters related to the class. Alternatively, try using the Piazza forum to get help with material from myself, or your fellow classmates.

Plagiarism:

The University policy on academic honesty and plagiarism can be found at the following link, which I expect you to review.

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

As well, please see the online tutorial at: <https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Resources

York Learning Commons

The Learning Commons unites learning services to better support students' academic success. Together in the Learning Commons, learning services (such as library research support, writing instruction, learning skills and careers services) collaborate to offer students enriched support and learning resources. The Learning Commons services support students as they develop the many skills, tactics, and strategies required for success in university and beyond.

<http://learningcommons.yorku.ca/>

Student Accessibility Services

N108 Ross Building or N204 Bennett Centre

Tel: 416-736-5755

E-mail: sasinfo@yorku.ca

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Geographic Resource Centre (GRC)

S403 Ross Building

- The GRC is a quiet research and study facility for students in the Dept. of Geography.

Computers are available for student use, including internet access, access to digital course material, and MS Office software. Various geomorphology textbooks are also available should students want to supplement their learning in the course.

Social Media

The Department of Geography at York University maintains an active social media presence to communicate with students:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YorkUGeography/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YorkGeography>