

GLY 451**GEOMORPHOLOGY****FALL-15**

Meetings: TR, 9:30-10:45am (lecture/discussion), Science (S) 165
R, 1:00-2:50pm (labs), S165/S170/S166

Text: *Key Concepts in Geomorphology* (2014), by Bierman and Montgomery, Freeman/MacMillian
ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-3860-1

Instructor: Bill Niemann, Ph.D., P.G., E.I.T.

Office: 171 Science Building

Office Hours for Students:

- MWF: 11:00-11:30am
- M, 2:00-4:00pm
- T, 12:30-2:00pm
- W, 2:00-3:00pm
- Other times, by chance or appointment

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My MUOnline: Blackboard Learn, version 9.1, October 2014 Release.

Course Description

Geomorphology is the scientific study of landscapes and the processes that shape them. Landscapes can be complex, reflective not only of current processes but ancient features and processes. Through a variety of classroom, lab and field activities, students in this course will learn to identify and analyze the earth's surficial features at various scales in terms of pre-existing elements (geologic structure, lithology, stratigraphy), recent landscape-forming processes (destructive and constructive) and time.

Relationship of Course to Departmental Goals

This course addresses the major goals of the geology department at Marshall University. In particular, the department's program objective in oral communication is emphasized through group presentations.

Grading Policy

➤ **Grading scale**

A	=	90-100%	of total points
B	=	80-89%	“ “ “
C	=	70-79%	“ “ “
D	=	60-69%	“ “ “
F	<	60%	“ “ “

➤ **Grade components***

Lab Exercises (~7-8)	30%
Exams (2)	30%
Reading Assignments	15%
Quizzes (2-3)	10%
Group presentation	15%

Total 100%

Attendance 0-5%
(Extra credit)

*Minor adjustments may be made to the above percentages based on actual number and difficulty of assignments, amount of material covered, time required, etc. All students will be asked for input prior to any such adjustments.

Policy statement on examinations and assignments including submittal of late work

- **Major Dates:** The course schedule includes the dates for the two examinations, the group presentations and the weekend field trip. These dates will not be changed and participation in these activities is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Attendance on the weekend field trip is mandatory.
- Labs will often be scored by use of a $\sqrt{+}$ (105), $\sqrt{}$ (90), or $\sqrt{-}$ (75), $\sqrt{--}$ (50), indicating above satisfactory, satisfactory, less than satisfactory, and unsatisfactory, respectively. A general grading rubric for determining the appropriate grade is provided on the next page of this syllabus.
- Lab exercises/reports and any hard-copy assignments given as part of lecture are due at the beginning of the next week's lab period or at the beginning of class on the announced due date, respectively. Late submittals will automatically receive a grade of $\sqrt{-}$. An assignment will not be counted late as a result of an excused absence as long as it is submitted by the end of the next weekday.

Grade →	√ - - (50%)	√ - (75%)	√ (90%)	√ + (105%)
Criterion ↓				
Timeliness	Submitted significantly after due date/time	Submitted after due date/time	Submitted by due date/time	Submitted by due date/time
Completeness	Repeated missing answers/elements	Missing answers/elements	Complete answers/elements	Work product beyond assignment
Neatness	Illegible and/or sloppy	Difficult to read	Easy to Read	Easy to Read
Care	Obvious lack of care	Lack of care	Obvious care	Extraordinary care
Achievement	Multiple missing / incorrect answers	Incorrect answers	Reasonable answers	Correct and thorough answers
Evidence of Learning	No evidence	Lack of evidence	All objectives met	Exceeds objectives

Attendance Policy

- Attendance will be monitored and used as a basis for extra credit. More importantly, **graded activities that occur during during lecture and lab periods may not be made up unless the student obtains an official excused absence. Notice of an excused absence must be received by the instructor through the office of Student Affairs** (see pages 85-86 of 2015-2016 MU Undergraduate Catalog). The Interim Dean of Student Affairs is Carla Lapelle, located on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center (2W38), 304-696-6423 or lapelle@marshall.edu.
- *In the case of an excused absence, any material missed can be completed, without penalty, by a later date assigned by the instructor. Failure by the student to complete the material by the assigned date will result in a zero for the assignment in question. The instructor may instead opt to assign a “no-grade,” without penalty to the student, for missed material as a result of the absence.*

General Statement on University Policies

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.”

Or, you can access the policies directly by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/. Academic Dishonesty/Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/Computing Services Acceptable Use/Inclement Weather/Dead Week/Students with Disabilities/Academic Forgiveness/Academic Probation and Suspension/Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment