

GEOL 3412 – Geomorphology

Fall - 2021

Section: MC1

Lecture Times: TR: 11-12:15 pm

Instructor: Dr. Tom Shiller

Office: WSB 319

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 2-5:00 pm; Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm; or by appointment

e-mail: thomas.shiller@sulross.edu

Course Purpose:

This course will focus on geomorphic features and how they form. We will discuss surface processes of weathering and erosion and how they sculpt different landscapes. Geomorphology comprises topics related to climate (both modern and historical), sedimentation, geologic structures, and bedrock geology.

Class Discussions:

Articles will be assigned each week, on Thursday, for students to read. Each Tuesday, the class will spend 20-30 minutes discussing the article and how it relates to topics covered in lecture. Students will be graded based on participation in the discussion – each one comprising 1% of the final grade. Participation is important, as all 10 discussions will total 10% of the final grade.

Exams:

There will be four exams covering sections discussed following the previous exam. These exams will comprise primarily short answer and essay questions. You may **not** use your notes for exams. Special arrangements will need to be made for make-up exams. Each exam will comprise 15% of the final grade. Exams will be curved at the professor's discretion.

Quizzes:

There will be ten quizzes administered during the semester (no more than one per week). Quizzes will cover material pertaining to the previous week's lectures. Quizzes will be given during the first 15 minutes of lecture on Thursdays and will count for 1% of the total grade (each).

Field Trip:

There will be a mandatory weekend camping trip and follow-up assignment during the semester. The assignment will count for 10% of the final grade. The date of the field trip has yet to be decided.

Grading System:

4 Exams = 60% (15% each); 10 Class Discussions = 10% (1% each); 10 Quizzes = 10% (1% each); 1 Field Trip = 5%; Lab = 15%

Letter Grading: Final course grade will be based on a percentage of the total points as follows:

90.00-100% = A

80.00-89.90% = B

70.00-79.90% = C

60.00-69.90% = D

Less than 60.00% = F

Attendance and Make-up Policy:

The only acceptable excuses for missing class are those due to illness, approved Sul Ross sanctioned events, and observation of religious holidays. All excused absences **must** be documented on paper. Please inform the professor at least 1 week prior to missing class (e-mail, note on office door, etc....). With an appropriate excuse, you must make up missed quizzes/exams **within 10 days** of the last day of the absence or you have failed to meet your course responsibilities and will receive a zero.

Student athletes:

You are given a full week to return the completed documentation: your progress (attendance and grade) to your coach, so when you present that card to me, I will take it and return it to you the following class period.

Alternatively, you can bring it to my listed office hours and I will look up your progress then. I will not complete them at the beginning or end of class. No exceptions.

Classroom Conduct:

The Student handbook states under Student Misconduct, number 21, "Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or classroom activities." Behavior which is included in this category: 1) persistent talking to ones' neighbors during lecture, 2) coming to class late or leaving early, 3) the use of cellular phones or MP3 devices in the classroom. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN CLASS.** This includes texting, emailing and social networking. (*If you are a member of an EMS/VFD group or have a child in day care and they must be able to reach you, let me know and we will discuss.*) Offenders of this policy will be asked once to stop and 5 points will be taken from their grade. If it occurs a second time, the offender will be instructed to leave the classroom, and there will be a meeting with the Dean of Student Life. If there are further incidents, UDPS will be called and offenders will be physically ejected from the classroom and will likely be expelled from the University.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED:

Any student caught cheating on an exam or quiz will receive an automatic **zero** on that assignment. If a student is caught cheating second time, additional disciplinary actions will be taken. Any student plagiarizing information on an assignment will receive an automatic zero for that assignment.

Students Needing Special Accommodations:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Geology BS marketable skills:

- * The student will be able to conduct field work.
- * The student will be able to use field equipment.
- * The student will be able to use lab equipment.
- * The student will be able to use library resources.
- * The student will be able to communicate in written and oral format.

Lecture and Lab Schedule for the Fall 2021 Semester:

This calendar is subject to change with prior notice, at the instructor's discretion.

Week of	Lecture Topics	Lab
Aug 23	History of Geomorph; Form & Process; BLE; provinces; scales; mass & energy	No lab
Aug 30	Thresholds; complex response; systems; internal & external forces; climate	Topos & air photos
Sept 6	Physiographic provinces	No lab (Labor Day)
Sept 13	Climate <---> Landscapes	Glaciers 1
Sept 20	Paleoclimate; glacial processes	Glaciers 2
Sept 27	Glacial; Physical & Chemical weathering)	Stream Table
Oct 4	Soils; Hillslope processes	Climate
Oct 11	Hillslopes; drainage basins and fluvial	LAB MIDTERM
Oct 18	Fluvial processes & landforms	Karst & hydro
Oct 25	Fluvial Landforms; channel response; grade	Process stream data from field
Nov 1	Sediment storage/ budgets. Wind processes and associated landforms	Sed budget
Nov 8	Volcanic geomorphology	Piedmonts
Nov 15	Tectonic geomorphology	Volcanic geomorph
Nov 22	Coastal processes & landforms, Thanksgiving Holiday (no class 11/24-26)	No lab
Nov 29	River presentations	Lab Final
Dec 6	Final exam week	