

University of Victoria - Department of Geography

COURSE DESCRIPTION – Fall 2014

GEOG 376 PROCESS GEOMORPHOLOGY (CRN: 11770)

Instructor: Dr. Dan H. Shugar

Office hours: T, R 1000-1100 DTB B118

Lectures: T 1430-1720

Labs: as scheduled

Objectives: This course follows GEOG 276 (Intro. Geomorphology) and investigates fundamental physical processes that create and maintain landforms. Focus is on examination of morphodynamic processes in various landscapes (e.g., fluvial, aeolian, coastal, glacial, hillslope, periglacial). The class involves laboratory experiments and local field trips.

Prerequisites: GEOG 276

Required readings:

Schroeder, J. (Editor in Chief) et al. (2013). *Treatise on Geomorphology*. [Available online](#) as html or PDF via UVic Library E-book. ISBN: 978-0-12-398353-4. DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-12-374739-6.09021-7. Various sections from this leading-edge review will be assigned.

Supplemental text:

Ritter, D.F., R.C. Kochel, and J.F. Miller (2011). *Process Geomorphology* (5/e). Waveland Press (ISBN 13: 978-1-57766-669-1). A copy will be on reserve in the library AND previous editions are suitable and available.

Course webpage: <http://moodle.uvic.ca>. Here you will find all relevant course materials and information (course outline, readings, labs, etc.).

<u>Course evaluation scheme:</u>	Lab assignments	50%
	Mid-term 1	20%
	Mid-term 2	15%
	Lab examination	15%

****NOTE: You are required to complete all sections of the course and obtain a passing grade in the laboratory component (labs + lab exam) to pass the course.***

Field Trip: To better familiarize you with our local landscape (and to provide a chance to enjoy the outdoors!), a field trip will be held early in the semester. Details will be announced in class.

GEOG376 Course policies and important notes:

1. Labs:

- *Lab assignments are an essential part of GEOG376. ****Students are required to complete all assignments and obtain a passing grade in the lab component (labs + lab exam) to obtain credit for this course.***
- *Labs are due 1 week after assigned unless specified otherwise.*
- *All details regarding labs & their marks are managed by your TA. Please attend only the section for which you are registered.*
- *Please bring: calculator, ruler, protractor, and any other supplies recommended. Software for spreadsheet analyses and graphing (e.g., MS Excel, Open Office, etc.) will also be required for some labs. Most computing labs on campus have these software.*
- *To help reduce the environmental impact of paper consumption, please submit assignments printed on both sides of the paper. Your TA may also agree to electronic (e.g., PDF) submissions, but please check with them personally.*

2. Lateness policy: A deduction of 25% of the total mark per weekday (weekends count as 1 day) will be applied to all late assignments. Accommodations are made only for extenuating circumstances with proper medical or counselling documentation provided. *Note that if you must miss a lab, please make arrangements with your TA in advance.

3. Examinations:

- **Mid-terms 1, 2 and the Lab Exam** will be held during lecture on the dates shown below.
- **Exam attendance is mandatory.** Exceptions will be made only under the following conditions:
 - *the instructor is informed in person before the exam that the absence will occur.*
**Note: do not sit an exam if you are ill, provide medical documentation in advance.*
 - *the student has proper written documentation of a serious medical or compassionate cause for the absence AND this documentation is provided either before or immediately after the exam;*
 - *see UVic Course Calendar for official university guidelines*
- Please feel free to contact the course instructor with any concerns.

4. Grading:

The Dept. of Geography grading guidelines are as follows:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	49% or Less

Undergraduate Grading

<i>Passing Grades</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+ A A-	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
COM	Complete (pass). Used only for 0-unit courses and those credit courses designated by the Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings.

“The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.”

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

GEOG376 PROCESS GEOMORPHOLOGY – Lecture Outline (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings ¹	Lab
1	Sept. 9	Introduction	Treatise: 1.1,1.9, 2.1, 2.5	No labs
2	Sept. 16	FIELD TRIP² Geomorphology of Greater Victoria	Field Trip Handout	No labs
3	Sept. 23	Weathering processes & sediment properties	Treatise: 4.1, 4.17, 1.13, 7.3-7.5	<u>Lab 1</u> : Geotechnical properties of sediments
4	Sept. 30	Slope systems & mass movement landforms	Treatise: 4.10, 7.1, 7.13-7.23	<u>Lab 2</u> : Mass wasting processes & landforms
5	Oct. 7	Fluvial processes & landforms	Treatise: 9.1, 9.2, 9.7, 9.8, 9.10	<u>Lab 3</u> : Fluvial processes & sediment transport
7	Oct. 14	Glacial processes & landscapes	Treatise: 8.5, 8.6-8.11	No labs
6	Oct. 21	MID-TERM 1		
8	Oct. 28	Periglacial processes & landscapes	Treatise: 8.15-8.20	<u>Lab 4</u> : Permafrost & periglacial systems
9	Nov. 4	Coastal processes & landforms	Treatise: 10.1, 10.3-10.6, 10.8, 10.10	<u>Lab 5</u> : Coastal systems
10	Nov. 11	Reading break – no class		
11	Nov. 18	Aeolian processes & landforms	Treatise: 11.1, 11.2, 11.6, 11.7, 11.11, 11.17	<u>Lab 6</u> : Geomorphic change detection in coastal dunes
12	Nov. 25	Course review + LAB EXAM		
13	Dec. 2	MID-TERM 2		

¹ Although many sections & pages are assigned, these readings are provided to supplement your lecture notes and serve as a study resource for further details on specific concepts. Do your best to read before each lecture.

² We will visit several geomorphically exciting sites in Greater Victoria by bus during class time. Dress appropriately and read further details in the handout available on Moodle.