INTRODUCTION TO LANDFORMS
Geography 1113K, Fall 2011

Class Times:
Lecture Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm in BC 1011

Labs: Section A - Monday 3-4:50 in NH 1042
Section B - Wednesday 3-4:50 in NH 1042
Section C - Monday 1-2:50 in NH 2032
Section D – Tuesday 5-6:50 in NH 1042
Section E - Wednesday 5-6:50 in NH 1042
Section F - Thursday 5-6:50 in NH 1042
Section G - Friday 1-2:50 in NH 2032

You must attend the lab for which you are registered.

The FINAL EXAM is Thursday, Dec 7th, 2:45 to 4:45 PM in BC1011

Textbook: Physical Geography A Landscape Appreciation, by McKnight and Hess. Get the 10th edition (the newest) to take advantage of online resources, but any edition will do.

Lab Book: Laboratory Manual for Introduction to Landforms by Brevik et al. You MUST have a lab book.

Instructor: Dr. Weimin Feng,
Office*: Nevins Hall 2067,* ***Phone****: 229-333-7030,* ***Email****: wfeng@valdosta.edu*

Office Hours: Mon-Thu 12-2pm; or by appointment

Departmental Office: Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences; 2006 Nevins Hall; 333-5752

Course Description: In this course we examine the types of features landforms that exist on the surface of the Earth and investigate why, how, and where these features were formed. Topics to be covered include the materials that make up the Earth; processes that build up the surface into mountains and other high places; and how running water, wind, landslides, waves, and moving ice shape the landscape. The course emphasizes, but is not be limited to, the landforms of the United States.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. **You are responsible for everything discussed in lecture, whether you are present or not.** This may include, but not be limited to, subject material, videos, announcements of schedule changes, and exam time changes. Absences in excess of 20% may result in a student's receiving a failing grade, as outlined in the *2011-2012 VSU Undergraduate Catalog*.

Laboratories: Attendance at one two-hour lab per week is *required*. You must bring your lab book, a pencil, and an eraser to each lab. It will help you greatly if you also bring your class notes and the textbook. There are no makeup labs. Labs are a required element of this course, therefore

if you miss more than 3 labs, you will get an F in the class.

Grading and Examinations: Your final grade in the course will be based on the results of three exams during the semester, a final exam at the end of the course, and lab exercises. The exams will cover the material presented in class and lab and the material contained in the reading assignments from the textbook.

Exams (3 @ 12 % each)……36 %
Final Exam…….40 %
Lab Exercises ……... 24 %

Your final grade in the course will be based upon the total number of points you earn, according to the following scheme:

90 – 100 % = A, 80 – 89 % = B, 70 – 79 % = C, 60 – 69 % = D, Less than 60 % = F

Makeup mid-term exams: If you miss one of the exams because of severe illness or injury, you *must* give me a valid written excuse from a local physician (note that an appointment with a doctor is *not* a valid excuse for missing an exam) or from the Office of Student Affairs or the Athletic Department to be eligible to take a makeup exam. If you do not give me a valid written excuse, you will be assigned a score of "0" for that exam. The makeup exam will be an essay-type test. A student who misses two or more mid-term exams will receive an "F" for the course. Your grades will be posted on the Web near the middle of the semester, and you may stop by my office at any time to check on your current grade in the class.

The final exam will be comprehensive and include material from the entire course, but material covered after the third exam will be covered in more depth. *No one will be exempt from taking this exam for any reason, and no one will be allowed to take the exam at any other time than that scheduled.* If you miss the final exam for any reason, it is your duty to contact the departmental secretary or me by 5p.m. of the day of the final (email address, phone, and departmental phone number are given above.)

There will be ***5 extra credits***. This will be an accumulation of points you acquired through the in-class activities, which will be normalized on a 0-5 scale at the end of the semester. Your total points for the course will NOT exceed 100/100 including extra credits. If you find yourself a bit confused by the course material, please get help as soon as possible. Don't wait until the day before the final exam!

Ask questions! If you have a question in class, most likely lots of other students do too.

Keep up with the reading and take good notes in class: Reading assignments are listed in this syllabus. Don't fall behind! Learning the material involves learning concepts as well as some memorizing. Note taking is an important life skill; you should use your classes for practice. Re-writing your notes at the earliest available time is strongly recommended. It takes time for concepts to be understood, so you cannot put off studying until a day or two before an exam and expect to learn the material. The rule of thumb for all college courses is that you should spend at least two hours studying for every hour of lecture.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

Academic Integrity: Cheating in this class will not be tolerated. Cheating includes using notes or electronic messages during a test, copying lab exercises from another student, or any other form of turning in someone else's work and representing it as yours. The first instance of cheating will result in a failing grade on a lab assignment or test; the second will result in a failing grade for the entire course. Students who violate the academic honesty policies will be reported to the Academic Dean as outlined in the academic honesty policies and procedures. Be sure to read the Code of Ethics in the Student Handbook or online at http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml for a complete explanation of the Valdosta State University Student Ethic Code.

Disruptive Behavior: Talking, texting, or using a laptop during lecture and any other activities that disrupt the class are not permitted. Anyone who disrupts the class may be asked to leave the room. If a person repeatedly disrupts the class, I will withdraw them from the course.

Tardiness: People who enter the class after lecture has begun cause a disturbance by drawing the attention of students and professor away from the lecture material. Show up on time!

Cell phones have become a serious disturbance in the classroom. I will strictly adhere to the following rules. Anyone in violation will be removed from the classroom immediately.

- *Cell phones OFF during lecture***.** Text messaging and other cell phone interactions are distracting to me and to those around you. If you have a special situation that requires that your phone be on, please see me. Be considerate of your fellow students by turning your phone off before class starts.

- *NO CELL PHONES ON OR ABOUT YOUR PERSON during exams***.** Access to a cell phone during an exam will be considered as an attempt to cheat. Anyone caught with a cell phone will receive an automatic zero for the exam.

- *Bluetooth devices and ear phones must be removed during class time***.**

- *Sound turned off on lap top computers***.** If you use a computer in class, all sound functions must be off, including the start-up sound.

Educational objectives or outcomes: (1) To understand the basic concepts and principles of the formation, alteration, and destruction of the landforms of Earth. (2) To understand fundamental algebraic concepts and be able to perform mathematical manipulations to solve problems. (3) To acquire the knowledge needed for interpretation and evaluation of geological and geographical data in order to have an informed opinion about volcanic eruptions, coastal erosion, and other processes. These outcomes correspond to VSU's General Education Outcomes 4, 5, and 7 and Environmental Geoscience Outcomes 1 and 2.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING *(may be revised as the semester progresses)*

Date	**Lecture Topics**	**Reading Assignment*** *PAGE # for10th edition*
T Aug 16	Introduction	Pages 3-13
R Aug 18	Maps, structure of the Earth	Ch. 2, pp. 353 & 354
T Aug 23	Composition of the Earth, the rock cycle	Pp. 355-364
R Aug 25	Plate tectonics	Pp. 375-389
T Aug 30	Plate tectonics	
R Sep 1	Volcanic processes and landforms	Pp. 390-403
T Sep 6	Volcanic processes and landforms	
R Sep 8	**Exam 1**	
T Sep 13	Folding and faulting, regional uplift	Pp. 404-411
R Sep 15	Weathering of rocks and climate	Pp. 417-425
T Sep 20	Weathering and soils	Pp. 323-331; 334-338
R Sep 22	Mass wasting processes and landforms	Pp. 426-432
T Sep 27	Mass wasting processes and landforms	Ch. 15
R Sep 29	Groundwater, karst topography	Pp. 235-236; 252-257;
		Ch. 17
T Oct 4	**Exam 2**	
R Oct 6	Fluvial processes **MIDTERM (LAST DROP DATE)**	
T Oct 11	Fluvial processes and landforms	Chapter 16
R Oct 13	Fluvial processes	
T Oct 18	Glacial processes and landforms	Chapter 19
R Oct 20	Glacial processes and landforms	
T Oct 25	Fall break	
R Oct 27	Glacial processes and landforms	
T Nov 1	Arid lands, wind-generated landforms	Chapter 18
R Nov 3	Coastal processes and landforms	
T Nov 8	Coastal processes and landforms	Chapter 20
R Nov 10	**Exam 3**	
T Nov 15	Coastal processes and landforms	
R Nov 17	Physiography of the U.S	
T Nov 22	Physiography	
R Nov 24	THANKSGIVING HOLDIDAY	
T Nov 29	Physiography of the U.S.	
R Dec 1	Review	
R Dec 7	**FINAL EXAM 2:45 to 4:45 PM in BC 1011**	