GEOGRAPHY 201
LANDFORM GEOGRAPHY
Fall 2017

Lectures: T TH 10:05-11:20 am Callcott Building, Rm 201.
Course Instructor: Dr. Allan James AJames@sc.edu Office: 777-6117.
Office Hours: Tue. & Thur. 11:30-12:30, or by appointment, Rm 206, Callcott Bldg.

Lab Instructors: Tyler Dearman, Rm 107; Peter Tereszkiewicz, Rm 123, Callcott Bldg.
Course Web site: Home Page (Public Access) TBA
Blackboard: Look in '*Course Documents*' for materials. We will also use Grade Center
Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 12, 9:00 a.m., Rm 201 Callcott Bldg

Objectives: This course introduces the physical features on the Earth's land surface emphasizing soils, hydrology, and processes of landform creation by water, wind, ice, and gravity. *Landforms* are physical features on the Earth's surface such as valleys, hill-slopes, beaches, and stream channels. The study of landforms is one of the oldest of the natural sciences from which many classic scientific premises and methods were born. Landforms and soils provide evidence of past environmental conditions, how they have changed, and the processes involved, including human actions and natural agents. The course emphasizes environmental changes in the recent geologic past up to the present. Two and a half hours of lectures and one 110-minute laboratory per week.

Learning Outcomes – Geography 201 focuses on scientific literacy with regard to physical processes at the Earth surface. Upon successful completion of this class, you will be able to:

- Explain scientific methods and terminology including hypothesis formulation and testing, experimental design, the method of multiple working hypotheses, and concepts such as inductive vs. deductive reasoning and empirical vs. theoretical methods.
- Quantify physical properties of materials and forms, including use of the metric system and use of dimensional analysis to set up and test computations.
- Interpret topographic maps and geospatial data such as remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Make laboratory and field measurements to describe Earth materials, soil properties, sediment grain-size distributions, and landform features.
- Evaluate theories of landscape change, such as catastrophism, uniformitarianism, and neo-catastrophism, and explain how landforms are created and change over various time scales.
- Know the environmental history of Earth's surface from the recent geologic past to present with an emphasis on Quaternary processes and changes (the Quaternary is the current geological period that began ~2.6 million years ago), and interactions between climate, humans, and environmental response during and after the Neolithic period of human culture.
- Recognize implications of records of rapid and ongoing Earth surface changes and landscape sensitivity to sustainability science, land and resources management, and global change.
- Demonstrate your knowledge and skill by preparing a report that analyzes, describes, and interprets landforms using airborne and satellite imagery provided in a term project.

Required Books, Materials, and Sources:

Textbook: Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation, by Tom L. McKnight; 11th ed., 2013; Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. You may use the entire hardcopy version or the custom paperback version for this course. Alternatively, you may purchase the eBook of the 11th edition. Used and rental versions of the 11th edition are ok. *Mastering Geography*

(MG); i.e., online materials bundled with the text, is NOT required or used in the course, so used copies of the text need not include access to MG.

Lab Manual: Landform Geography Laboratory Exercises, by Allan James, Kendall/Hunt Pub. Available in university book stores. You will need this early on for laboratory exercises. Don't buy a used copy if it is missing any exercises.

Supplementary Lecture Materials for Landform Geography, by Allan James. Available on Blackboard as will be announced in class. (free)

Materials on Internet: Consult the course web page and Blackboard for information and periodic postings. Past lectures, similar to lectures this semester, will be available on Blackboard.

Grades: Grades will be based on points earned on exams and by laboratory performance. A total of 500 points is possible. You must pass the lab to pass the course. **More than two absences from lab will result in an F for the course**. Criteria and scores for lab grades are specified elsewhere.

Grade Scale: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tentative thresholds. If you get one of the following scores, it ensures that you will be given at least that high of a grade. Lower point totals *may* be interpreted later to allow a higher letter grade based on 'curving'; that is, comparing your score to the entire group. For example, if you get 445 points you will get at least a B+ but you could get an A depending on how your score compares to the group.

Points	Letter Grade
450-500	A
435-<450	B+
400-<435	B
385-<400	C+
350-<385	C
335-<350	D+
300-<335	D
<300	F

Point Distribution:	Points	% Grade
Laboratory	125	25
Lab Project	25	5
Three 'pop' quizzes in lecture	30	6
Two Midterms	200	40
Final Exam	120	24
	500	100

Behavioral Expectations: You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional and collegial manner both to your peers and to your instructors. Rude and disruptive activities during lectures or labs, such as making noise or interfering with other students, are unacceptable and may result in dismissal from lecture or the course. Disruptive behaviors include conversations, cell phones, operating tablets or laptops with external (non-Geog201) materials, reading newspapers, working on other courses, or sleeping during lecture. As stated in the *USC Honor Code,* it is the responsibility of every student at USC to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit, and any student who violates or who knowingly assists another to violate this Code shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the university policy outlined at: http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html