

Instructor: Dr. Ross Guida
E-mail: ross.guida@shsu.edu

Office: LDB 336
Office Hours: M 1-2, R 1-3; By Appt.

Lecture: TR 11-12:20 LDB 321

Lab: T 12:30-1:50 LDB 321

Objectives

By the end of class, students should be capable of:

- Identifying and discussing surficial landforms;
- Understanding physical processes;
- Applying physical equations;
- Explaining the importance of historical geomorphology, where we are today, and how the field is evolving;
- Writing scientific lab reports;
- Finding and interpreting journal articles;
- Researching and writing papers using a combination of sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles;
- Discussing why geomorphology is important to society and how it influences human beings and what surficial processes and landforms human beings can influence.

Required Textbook:

Huggett, R.J. 2011. *Fundamentals of Geomorphology*, 3rd Ed. Routledge. ISBN 9780415567756.

Supplemental/Reference Text:

Bierman, P.R. and D.R. Montgomery. 2014. *Key Concepts in Geomorphology*. W.H. Freeman and Company. 9781429238601.

Other potential readings will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard.

Required Lab Materials:

Labs will be posted on Blackboard. Please make sure you check Blackboard and print the labs when available and bring pencils and a scientific calculator along with any other required materials listed. Read the labs ahead of time to make the best use of the lab period.

Course Website: Lecture notes, lab exercises, and supplemental readings will be made available via SHSU Online/Blackboard

SHSU Email: Your SHSU email account is the official form of university communication I will use it as a primary means of communication with you. Please make sure that you maintain a valid password and regularly check your SHSU email account for important announcements.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in this course is mandatory. Only documented absences will be excused in accordance with university policy. Students are allowed 3 unexcused

absences. Additional undocumented absences will adversely impact your grade Please see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/absence.html>

If you do miss class, you must take the initiative to get lecture and/or discussion notes from classmates and/or go over the materials posted online. I am happy to meet during office hours to discuss questions from lectures, but my office hours are not meant for holding individual/one-on-one lectures unless there was a legitimate reason to miss class.

Should unusual circumstances arise during the semester (medical problem, death in the family, etc.) please contact me ASAP and provide official documentation so I can work with you to accommodate the situation. Please do not wait until the end of the semester or until your grade has fallen as these are not sufficient reasons and may result in me not being able to make accommodations.

In addition to the above, please be on time to limit disruptions for your classmates.

Grading:

Scale: **A**=90-100%, **B**=80-90%, **C**=70-80%, **D**=60-70%, **F**<60%

Breakdown:

Labs (9)	25%
Midterm	25%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Annotated Bibliography Presentation	5%
Final exam (Comprehensive)	30%
	100%

Labs: Labs are meant to supplement lecture by gaining a hands-on understanding of the material and applying equations and methods that may be required upon entering the workforce or going to graduate school. I do not expect you to memorize equations, but I do expect you to be able to use them and run through calculations. You are encouraged to work together on labs and associated problems, but ***each student must turn in their own individual lab reports each week.***

Lab reports: Answers should be written clearly and concisely where appropriate. All calculations and units must be included so I can see how you worked through the problem and where there may have been errors. Treat these reports as if you're turning them into an employer who is paying you as an hourly consultant or if you're turning them in as part of a contracted local, state, or federal report. Clear writing and reporting are always important.

Exams: There will be two exams: a midterm and a cumulative final. Content will include readings, lectures, and lab and homework assignment concepts. Questions will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching-based, and short answer (including calculations and problems). I may also include picture slides with landform identification. The final will be comprehensive, meaning it will include questions from the midterms, as well as material we covered after. The final will also include a short-answer component in addition to the Scantron portion. There will be an in-class review for both the midterm and the final. *Make-*

up exams will only be given in the event of an illness or family emergency with proper documentation. Please see the link under the “attendance policy” section.

* Make sure you bring a basic scientific calculator to class as well as pencils for the midterm and final. Smartphones, tablets, etc. will not be allowed during exams. Sharing of devices will also not be allowed under any circumstances. Please come prepared or be ready to do it the old-fashioned way. *

Annotated Bibliography (AB): This will be due on Tuesday, Nov. 22nd, the last day of class before Thanksgiving break. You will turn in a hard copy at the beginning of the class period and must also upload a digital copy (Word file) to Blackboard by 5 pm on Nov. 22nd.

At the start of your annotated bibliography you need to include a 2-page, 1.5-spaced summation of all of the articles that weaves together the take-home message for your topic. Each annotation should be 5-6 sentences with 12-point Times New Roman font, 1.5 spacing, margins of 1”, with the full article reference above each summary. Leave 2 blank lines between each annotation. Please use Chicago Style author-date format (see below) for your article citations and full references. This format is common in many geography and earth science publications. Annotations that do not meet basic formatting requirements will receive point deductions.

Guida, R.J., J.W.F Remo, and S. Secchi. 2016. Tradeoffs of strategically reconnecting rivers to their floodplains: The case of the Lower Illinois River (USA). *Science of the Total Environment* 572: 43-55. DOI 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.07.190

Topics must be chosen ahead of time (due Thurs. 9/15). I encourage you to look at the syllabus and book in detail to find a theme that may interest you. While topics covered in lecture are allowed, you will be required to develop the topic in greater detail. For example, if you are interested in fluvial geomorphology or soils, approved topics might be “the impacts of dams on the geomorphology on the Columbia River” or “agricultural influences on soil erosion in the Corn Belt.”

You must include annotations for 10 peer-reviewed articles. In place of two articles you may include federal or state-agency reports. Work on paraphrasing the information—verbatim citations/quotes will not be allowed. This assignment is meant to familiarize you with distilling information down from academic sources and/or scientific reports in order to tell a coherent and concise story.

The grade on your annotations will be based on a combination of: Formatting, grammar and spelling, quality of the summary, quality of your sources, overall writing ability, and how well your articles fit your chosen topic. I will provide a rubric around the same time you turn in your topics so you know what to expect.

In addition to the written assignment, during the last lab period, you will give a 5-minute presentation to the class on what you learned from your annotations. Questions and discussion will follow student presentations.

SHSU Student Conduct Code: Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be taken seriously. PLEASE DO NOT PLAGIARIZE YOUR LABS OR YOUR

ANNOTATIONS PLEASE DO NOT CHEAT ON YOUR EXAMS. These issues will result in failing the lab or exam in question and/or the course. For more, please see the SHSU Student Conduct Code: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/policies/documents/Student+Guidelines+2013-2016.pdf>

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holy Days: If a student desires to be excused from class, assignment, or a test to participate in activities associated with a religious holy day, then the student must notify the instructor ahead of time of each scheduled class that he/she will miss for religious reasons. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early—unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons.

Course Schedule (*subject to change*):

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1	8/25	Course logistics; What is geomorph!?!; History	
		<i>NO LAB</i>	
2	8/30	Geomorphic Systems and Processes	
		<i>NO LAB</i>	
	9/1	Shaping Landscapes and the U.S.	
3	9/6	Tectonics, folds, faults	
		<i>NO LAB</i>	
	9/8	Orogenesis	
4	9/13	Vulcanism and craters	
		<i>Lab 1</i>	
	9/15	Climatic influences	AB topics due
5	9/20	Weathering	
		<i>Lab 2</i>	Lab 1 due
	9/22	Weathering II	
6	9/27	Soils	
		<i>Lab 3</i>	Lab 2 due
	9/29	Karst	
7	10/4	Karst II	
		<i>Lab 4</i>	Lab 3 due
	10/6	Midterm Review	
8	10/11	MIDTERM	
	10/13	Hillslopes	
9	10/18	Mass wasting	
		<i>Lab 5</i>	Lab 4 due
	10/20	Drainage basins	
10	10/25	Fluvial I	
		<i>Lab 6</i>	Lab 5 due
	10/27	Fluvial II	
11	11/1	Fluvial landforms	

		<i>Lab 7</i>	Lab 6 due
	11/3	Fluvial landscapes and human influences	
12	11/8	Glacial I	
		<i>Lab 8</i>	Lab 7 due
	11/10	Glacial II	
13	11/15	Coastal I	
		<i>Lab 9</i>	Lab 8 due
	11/17	Coastal II	
14	11/22	Aeolian processes	AB due
		<i>NO LAB - Thanksgiving</i>	
	11/24	<i>Thanksgiving – no class</i>	
15	11/29	Aeolian landforms	
		<i>Lab: Presentations and Discussion</i>	Lab 9 due
	12/1	Final Review	Bring ?'s!
16		Final Exam: Thurs., Dec. 8th 12:00-14:00	