

Course Syllabus

GEOG 331: Regional Geomorphology of the United States
Fall 2008

Instruction

Professor: Dr. Daniel R. Hirmas

Office: 230 Lindley Hall

Office Hours: MW 9 – 11:00 AM; or by appointment

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Textbooks (Not Required): (All prices are from AbeBooks.com)

Physiography of Western United States, 1931 — Nevin M. Fenneman (~\$8)

Physiography of Eastern United States, 1938 — Nevin M. Fenneman (~\$10)

Regional Geomorphology of the United States, 1965 — William D. Thornbury (~\$15)

Landprints: On the Magnificent American Landscape, 1984 — Walter Sullivan (~\$1)

Geomorphic Systems of North America, 1987 — William L. Graf, Ed. (~\$50)

Course Materials:

In Class Handouts

Blackboard (courseware.ku.edu)

Lecture: MW 12:30 – 1:45 PM in 401 Lindley Hall

Objectives

This class explores the properties and genesis of landforms across regions of the United States with special attention given to the *processes* and *interactions* responsible for shaping these landscapes.

Grading

Exams: One midterm (worth 40%) and a final exam (worth 60%) will be given during the semester. The exams will consist mostly of short answer essay questions.

Cheating: Any student caught cheating will receive a final grade of F and be brought up on charges with the University Senate. (See University Senate Rules and Regulations for questions about what constitutes ‘cheating.’)

Lecture Schedule

Week 1 **Aug 25** Introduction, Historical perspectives, Major branches of geomorphology

Aug 27 Physiographic classification, Boundary problems, Geologic time scale

Week 2 **Sep 1** **Labor Day – No class**

Sep 3 Appalachian Highlands – Valley and Ridge Province

Week 3 **Sep 8** Appalachian Highlands – Piedmont Province

Sep 10 Appalachian Highlands – Blue Ridge Province

Week 4 **Sep 15** Appalachian Highlands – Appalachian Plateaus Province

- Sep 17** Atlantic Plain – Coastal Plain: **Bill Johnson**
 Week 5 **Sep 22** Atlantic Plain – Coastal Plain: **Bill Johnson**
Sep 24 Interior Plains – Great Plains Province: **Bill Johnson**
 Week 6 **Sep 29** Interior Plains – Great Plains Province: **Bill Johnson**
Oct 1 Interior Plains – Great Plains Province: **Bill Johnson**
 Week 7 **Oct 6** **SSSA Annual Meetings – No class**
Oct 8 Interior Plains – Great Plains Province – Llano Estacado
 Week 8 **Oct 13** Interior Plains – Great Plains Province – Edwards Plateau and Pecos Valley
Oct 15 Interior Plains – Great Plains Province – Central Texas
 Week 9 **Oct 20** Interior Plains – Interior Low Plateaus and Central Lowland
Oct 22 **Exam 1**
 Week 10 **Oct 27** Rocky Mountain System – Erosional surfaces
Oct 29 Rocky Mountain System – Fluvial processes and intermontane basins
 Week 11 **Nov 3** Rocky Mountain System – Alpine mass wasting: **Ashley Zung**
Nov 5 Intermontane Plateaus – Columbia Plateau – Channeled Scabland
 Week 12 **Nov 10** Intermontane Plateaus – Columbia Plateau – Snake River Plain
Nov 12 Intermontane Plateaus – Colorado Plateaus – High Plateaus of Utah
 Week 13 **Nov 17** Intermontane Plateaus – Colorado Plateaus – Grand Canyon Section
Nov 19 Intermontane Plateaus – Basin and Range Province – Great Basin
 Week 14 **Nov 24** Intermontane Plateaus – Basin and Range Province – Mojave Desert
Nov 26 **Thanksgiving Break – No class**
 Week 15 **Dec 1** Intermontane Plateaus – Basin and Range Province – Salton Trough
Dec 3 Intermontane Plateaus – Basin and Range Province – Mexican Highland
 Week 16 **Dec 8** Pacific Mountain System – Cascade-Sierra Mountains
Dec 10 Pacific Mountain System – Pacific Border Province
 Finals **Dec 15** **Final Exam 10:30 – 1:00PM**