

**Geol 1060: Geomorphology Laboratory**  
Spring 2011

**Instructor:** Matt Finkenbinder  
**Email:** [msf34@pitt.edu](mailto:msf34@pitt.edu)  
**Office:** SRCC 316  
**Phone:** (412) 624-8731  
**Office Hours:** Office Hours/Open Lab: TBD  
**Class Time:** SRCC 210, Monday 4:00-5:50 PM  
**Website:** <http://www.pitt.edu/~msf34/>

**Purpose:** The goal of this intermediate to advanced level course is to provide you with the basic knowledge and tools to understand surficial processes including: (1) erosion and deposition by water, ice, wind, and gravity, (2) physical and chemical weathering, (3) mass wasting and hill slope evolution, (4) soil development, and (5) fluvial and land form evolution. Students will utilize topographic maps and aerial photographs to develop an understanding of Earth surface processes and landforms. Lab exercises are very important to a satisfactory performance in this class, constituting 30% of the final grade. Most students will not have occasion to work as a geomorphologist, but nearly everyone enrolled in the class will have to use maps and images to interpret landscapes in one form or another. Good attitudes are imperative, so are good work habits.

**Schedule (\*\*Subject to Change\*\*):**

Jan 10	Lab 1 – Online Map Resources and Physiographic Provinces
Jan 17	<b>No Class – Martin Luther King Day</b>
Jan 24	Lab 2 – Topographic Maps I
Jan 31	Lab 3 – Topographic Maps II
Feb 7	Lab 4 – Soils
Feb 14	Lab 5 – Drainage Analysis
Feb 21	Exam I
Feb 28	Lab 6 – Flood Frequency
Mar 7	<b>No Class – Spring Recess</b>
Mar 14	Lab 7 – Desert Landforms
Mar 21	Lab 8 – Glaciers as Landforms
Mar 28	Lab 9 – Glacial Landforms
Apr 4	Lab 10 – Coastal Landforms
Apr 11	Local Field Trip
Apr 18	Exam II

**Materials:** Each student is required to bring the following materials to lab each week: (1) ruler with millimeter scale, (2) scientific calculator, (3) notebook, and (4) Dictionary of Geologic

Terms (optional).

- Grades:** Grades will be based on weekly lab assignments and two in-class exams. Lab grade accounts for 30% of your overall course grade. Lab assignments are due at the beginning of class one week after they were assigned. Each lab will be worth a total of 20 points, totaling 220 points including the field trip. Late assignments will be deducted 5 points every day the lab is late. The in-class exams will be worth 100 points each, totaling 200 points. The overall total points for the lab class will be 420. No quizzes and no extra credit.
- Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, and you must arrive on time. There is only 110 minutes for each lab, and I will not lecture twice for those who arrive late. If it is necessary for you to miss class, you must make arrangements with me before you miss class.
- Disabilities:** If you think you may need extra accommodations, please talk to the instructor!
- Cheating:** You are expected to work through the lab assignments on your own. If you do the work, you learn the material. However, when something puzzles you, you are encouraged to consult with each other and me as necessary, in order to resolve the question. Copying answers or using someone else's assignment from previous years is cheating, and will be prosecuted as such.
- Cell Phones:** Use of cell phones (this includes talking, texting, or using the internet) is NOT allowed in class. Before class starts, turn your phone off or put the ringer on silent.
- Email Policy:** The best way to contact me is via email. I will try and respond to any questions or concerns regarding class within 24 hours. Do not hesitate to ask questions if you need help or are confused. Please remember to review your email correspondence for grammatical and spelling errors. Make sure to include a concise subject, salutation, body text, and your name. A succinct and well-written note is much appreciated.