

# GEOG 342 Geomorphology

Geo—earth    morph—shape or form    ology—study of

Geomorphology—the study of earth landforms

Every landscape has a story. This story can often be deciphered by the careful observation of field forms and relationships in the context of the processes that induce change in the Earth's surface. Traditional geomorphology has emphasized descriptive characterization of landscapes and the historical chronology of their development. Contemporary geomorphology has added an emphasis on the role of processes that create the features seen at the surface. The goal of geomorphologic investigation is to provide useful information about the landforms of the Earth's surface and an appreciation of the complexity of landscapes around us.

## CSUC CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GEOG 342 Geomorphology 3.0 Fall

*Prerequisites: GEOG 101 or GEOS 102 or equivalents, or faculty permission.*

Systematic analysis of the origin and development of landforms. Emphasis is on the study of geomorphic processes using maps, air photos, and field data. Special fee required; see the Class Schedule.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Process Geomorphology by Ritter et al, Waveland Press, 2002
- Readings posted on Professor Melcon's website (<http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8092/>).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Exams:** There will be three midterm examinations and one final examination. The exams are a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay questions. The final exam is comprehensive. Examinations will be on a Friday. The final examination will be held on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

**Exam questions:** By 5:00 on the Wednesday before each exam, each student will submit five multiple choice questions for the exam. The questions must include either four or five possible answers and the correct answer must be underlined. The questions must be emailed to [pmelcon@csuchico.edu](mailto:pmelcon@csuchico.edu) with the subject line GEOG\_342\_Exam.

Readings: Students will read the assigned textbook. Research articles and other readings will be posted on Professor Melcon's website. (<http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8092>).

Mansion Tour: Students will visit the Bidwell Mansion Visitor Center and tour the mansion. A listing of evidence of globalism and a one-page review of the site will be submitted.

Field investigation: To be arranged

Course paper: A paper presenting the content and discussing the origin significance of a specific landform will be prepared. The paper must include citations to at least five journal articles. Both a citation and a one-paragraph abstract of the article must be provided in the bibliography. Each article must be cited in the text using the {name, date} format. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and either four or five pages in length. A successful paper generally discusses the selected articles in the context of course concepts. Paper having more than three errors in spelling or grammar on a page will be assigned a 'C' (21 points).

## Course Grading

Attendance is not mandatory, but absences generally have an adverse impact on a student's grade. Make-up work will be permitted only with instructor approval. Grades will be awarded in accordance with University catalog standards. Classroom participation will be considered when resolving borderline grades. Course grades will be determined in the following manner:

Assignment	Value	Total
Exam questions	4@5 points	20 points
Bidwell Mansion	1@10 points	10 points
Paper	1@30 points	30 points
Midterm Exams	3@40 points	120 points
Final Exam	1@60 points	60 points
Total		240 points

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

# GEOG 342 COURSE SCHEDULE

Fall 2009

Week of		Text Chapter	Exams and papers	Furlough Days
August	24	1		
	31	5		
September	7	6		8 Tu, 17 (Th)
	14	6	Midterm #1 Friday	
	21	7		
	28	2	Bidwell Mansion review due in class (F)	
October	5	3		13 (Tu ), 14 (W), 15 (Th)
	12	3	Midterm #2 Friday	
	19	4		
	26	8		
November	2	9		2 (M), 12 (Th)
	9	10	Midterm #3 Friday	
	16	11	Paper submitted Friday	
	30	12		
December	7	Open		2 (W), 8 (Tu)
	14	Final Exam	Monday December 14 10:00	