Geography 320
CRN 61205
Geomorphic Processes
Spring 2005
Dr. Andrew G. Fountain, Ph: 725-3386

Class	Days	Times	Bldg/Room
Lecture	M-W-F	1130-1235	CH 418
Laboratory	M	1245-1505	CH 418

Description: This class is about the shape of the solid surface of the Earth. Why do hills and valleys exist? How did they get there? We examine the physical processes responsible for landforms. There are forces for change and resisting landscapes. The resulting landform is the balance between the two. Although various landforms including glaciers, rivers, and landslides, are very different in appearance they respond to identical forces. Humans too create landscape change. Big change. Maybe the fastest change.

The goal of this class is to interpret landscape form in terms of the physical processes that shaped it. To help interpret large scale forms we use aerial photography, satellite imagery, and topographic maps. We utilize simple mathematical formulations to examine the response of the landform to the change in forces acting upon it. Outside readings will include primary scientific literature to introduce you to this technical genre and develop skills in reading and synthesizing the important elements.

Text: Ritter, et al., Process Geomorphology, 4th Ed.

Prerequisites: Geography 210 and Math 111.

TOPICS	Week	Grading	
Principles	1		
Rivers	2, 3	Exams	25%
River landforms	4	Final Exam	25%
Glaciers	5, 6	Readings	25%
Glacial landforms	7	Laboratory	25%
Hill Slopes	8		
Landslides	9		

Final Exam: June 9 1230-1420