

GEOGRAPHY 140B

Physiography and Geomorphological Extremes

U.C. Berkeley, Spring 2024

Professor Kurt Cuffey

kcuffey@berkeley.edu

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL EXTREMES
GEOGRAPHY 140B, U.C. Berkeley, Spring 2024 (4 credits)

Instructor: Professor Kurt Cuffey, Departments of Geography and EPS
Office: 525 McCone Hall
Email: kcuffey@berkeley.edu

Pre-requisite: Geog 140A, or EPS 117 in some cases

Roster.

Motivations: To understand physical landscapes: properties, processes, change.
+Three aspects of centrality to geography (tenancy, interactions, place)

Our world is always replete with both beauties and horrors. Keep in mind:

- As wildfires illustrate, the physical landscape continues to operate
- Scholarship, like art, connects us to a higher purpose and enjoyment of life, and is always essential
- Most of you will survive the pandemic / Trumpism / etc. and spend decades living in the world

Class Lectures: MW 2 – 3:30, in McCone 145 or, if needed due to illness or other disaster, via Zoom. If we have to do any make-up lectures, probably M 5-6:30.

Office Hours: I will usually be able to remain in the classroom after lecture on either Monday or Wednesday, depending on the week. Can also arrange Zoom meetings.

No class on these days: Unless I tell you otherwise, there will be no class on February 19 (President's Day), March 25+27 (Spring Break), April 8+10 (my own travel)

Required Materials:

1. Text: Global Geomorphology, M. Summerfield; 2. Maps: Landforms of the United States (Raisz), and U.S. Topographic Map; 3. outline of lecture notes for 140B; 4. your notes and knowledge from 140A

Midterm Examinations: There will be four take-home exams.

Grading:

This course has no final exam. The other exams will be weighted equally. Participation in field trips will count for 30% of the total grade if we do two trips.

The scale: 94-100 A; 90-93 A-; 87-89 B+; 84-86 B; 80-83 B-; 77-79 C+; 74-76 C; 70-73 C-; 67-69 D+; 64-66 D; 60-63 D-; < 60 F

For Exams:

You are only responsible for material covered in lectures, unless specially noted otherwise.

SUBJECT MATTER: This course is a continuation of Geography 140A.

1. Coastal processes and forms

2. “Alternative” systems:

- A. karst**
- B. hot and arid**
- C. glacial**
- D. periglacial**

3. Physiographic Regions:

- A. Introduction**
- B. Two or three of the following:**
 - a. Colorado Plateau**
 - b. Great Basin**
 - c. Sierra Nevada**
 - d. Cascades (South and North)**
 - e. Appalachian Highlands**

GENERAL COMMENTS:

I expect students to conform to the highest standards of behavior and scholarship, without paternalistic enforcement. The class is a collaborative learning exercise, and everyone can succeed and receive a good grade.

I have always had excellent experiences with students in this class, I do not expect any problems or excess anxieties. We all have to be committed to making it a good and productive experience, however.

If we do some Zooming, note that Zoom lectures are intellectual property of the instructor and not to be used for any purpose beyond the class.

I will help you, to the extent possible, with any problems that arise for you. Please feel free to communicate with me about them, as I probably won't know that anything is happening unless you tell me.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

No food in class. Some students have allergies.

Field Trips. Weather and pandemic permitting, we will do two one-day trips, on Saturdays or Sundays. Need a couple of drivers with vehicles.

My departure. I will be leaving the country on May 4 for a lengthy trip, mostly without internet access, and everything related to this class must be finished before then.

