

GEO 351-001 / ENS 300-005

Physical Landscapes

MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm 105 Patterson Hall

Dr. Tony Stallins

ja.stallins@uky.edu

Zoom office hours appts

1:00– 3:00 pm Thursdays

Appointments: <https://calendly.com/jastallins/>

In-person office hour appts

869 Patterson Office Tower

1:00 – 3:00 pm Wednesday and Friday

Appointments: <https://calendly.com/jastallins/>

Course access

Canvas and <https://www.uky.edu/~jast239/courses/landscapes/landscapes.html>

Course description

This is a course in geomorphology, the study of earth surface processes and landforms. The focus is on the analysis and interpretation of earth surface features and topography in terms of process-response mechanisms, and on an understanding of the fundamental physical, chemical, biological, and human processes that create and modify landforms and landscapes. The course emphasizes the dynamic nature of landforms and landscapes, and the interrelationships between landforms and hydrology, climate, soils, and the biosphere.

Course objectives

The goal is to produce students who can interpret landforms and topography as an expression of the interaction of geologic, climatic, hydrologic, and biologic controls. Specific objectives are that, upon completion, students should be able to:

- Deduce evidence about environmental controls and landscape history from landforms
- Describe the roles geomorphic processes play in landscape evolution
- Compare and contrast surface forms and processes in different climate types
- Explain the mutual adjustments between form and process
- Understand physical landscapes as complex and dynamic systems
- Apply geomorphological concepts to problem solving

Textbooks available from instructor

Huggett, R.J. 2011. Fundamentals of Geomorphology (3rd edition). London: Routledge.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

		Points	Percent
Unit tests	3 at 100 pts each	300	
Google Earth landform identification	10 at 15 pts each	150	
Final exam	100 pts	100	
Attendance and participation	30 at 5 pts each	150	
Local landform or geomorphic process photo sets	2 at 30 pts each	60	
	Total points	760	

GRADING

Your final letter grade is based upon the percentage of points you earn out of a possible 760 points. All grades will be posted in Canvas

A > 90%	Sample grade calculation: You scored 70/100, 85/100, and 90/100 on your three tests earning 245/300 points. You earned 145/150 for all ten of your Google Earth file submissions. You earned 90/100 on your final exam. Attendance and participation totaled 140/150 points. Your photo set scores were 25/30 and 20/30, to make 55/60 points. Your total number of points (245 + 145 + 90 + 140 + 75) comes to 675 points out of a total possible 790 points. Your class grade is 675/760 points or 86.2% for the course. This would be your final letter grade unless you have unexcused Friday absences. Upon the third unexcused Friday absence, your final letter grade will be decreased by one step, i.e., from an A to B. Each additional unexcused absence lowers your grade another letter step. If you have extra credit add it to your total number of points before dividing by 760 points.
B 80 – 89%	
C 70 – 79%	
D 60 – 69%	
E < 60%	

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

Tests. Format for each of the three tests will consist of any combination of multiple choice, definition, sketch and label, short essay, and slide identification. Tests are not cumulative. Textbook chapters from the pre-requisite for our class, GEO 130 Earth's Physical Environments are available in Canvas for additional help to prepare for tests.

Google Earth landform identification. For the material covered on each of the three tests, students will submit a Google Earth file in which they have located and described a list of landforms posted in Canvas. Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Final exam. The final exam will consist of fifty images of landforms that students will have to visually identify and describe their typical characteristics and how they formed. The landforms on this exam will be taken from those compiled in the Google Earth activity.

Attendance and participation. Attendance will be taken every class meeting. Participation is folded into attendance. Students can lose a portion of these attendance-participation points by being late, distracted phone or laptop use in class, and coming to class unprepared. Short assignments may also be given to earn participation points.

Landform/geomorphic process photo documentation. Students will be required to submit two photo sets at the end of the semester. Each set will document a landform or process that we have discussed in class. These photos must be taken by the student in person – no downloaded photos taken by someone else or Google Earth photos. For each set, two or more photos are required to document the landform or process of interest. One of these photos is required to provide visual evidence of the you at the site, i.e. take a photo of yourself with the landform. In your notes section of your slides, identify and describe your landform and include information about how this type of landforms form and where you took these photos. Do not put text into the slide. Put it only in the notes section. Instructions and suggestions will be provided in class. Photo sets are to be submitted as Powerpoint files in Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

A full list of UK academic policies is available at:

<https://provost.uky.edu/proposals/guidance-course-proposals/standard-academic-policy-statements> .

Class attendance policy. Attendance will be taken each class meeting. Upon the third unexcused absence, your final letter grade will be decreased by one letter step, i.e., from an A to a B, or a C to a D. Each additional unexcused absence lowers your grade another letter step.

Class make-up policy. Missed attendance, participation, and short assignment points for excused absences will be made up during Prep Week at the instructor's discretion. For each instructor-approved excused absence, an activity of a duration of one-class period, approximately 45 minutes, is required to earn back these points. Make-up tests for instructor-approved excused absences will not be given until Prep Week. There is no makeup for the final exam.

Prep week and reading days. The last week of instruction of a regular semester is termed "Prep Week." These rules permit continuing into Prep Week regularly assigned graded homework that was announced in the class syllabus. Class participation and attendance grades are permitted during Prep Week. However, no written examinations, including final examinations, may be scheduled during Prep Week. No quizzes may be given during Prep Week. No project/lab practicals/paper/presentation deadlines or oral/listening examinations may fall during the Prep Week unless it was scheduled in the syllabus and the course has no final examination (or assignment that acts as a final examination) scheduled during finals week.

The Thursday and Friday of Prep Week are study days (i.e., "Reading Days"). There cannot be any required "interactions" on a Reading Day. "Interactions" include participation in an in-class or online discussion, attendance at a guest lecture, or uploading an assignment.

Communication between teachers and students. The instructor will prioritize communications in the classroom and during office hours. If you email, use the email addresses provided at the top of the syllabus to contact your instructors: ja.stallins@uky.edu. You will receive emails from the instructor throughout the semester. Please check your email accounts daily.

Excused absences and acceptable excuses. Students are required to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Acceptable reasons for excused absences include: (a) significant illness, (b) death of a family member, (c) trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events or ROTC, (d) major religious holidays, (e) interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the instructor of record. Students should notify the professor of absences prior to class.

Whether an absence is excused or not will be contingent upon the overall student record of attendance for the semester and the kinds and quality of the excuses submitted. If an absence is not announced ahead of time, it is unexcused. Documentation for absences must be provided within one week.

In addition to prior notification before any absence, appointments require a hardcopy letter documenting the appointment with the day and time. These are readily available upon checking

out of a doctor or dental visit. Just ask the person checking you out. Screenshots of medical test results do not count as an absence excused.

Students with chronic medical conditions that jeopardize attendance must go through UK Disability Services to develop documentation for medical non-attendance.

Family events other than funerals, the possession of prior purchases of airline tickets, and Greek events do not qualify as excused absences.

Students who participate in intercollegiate athletic activities or ROTC must send in their letters of participation a week before the absence is expected.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences two weeks in advance.

Academic integrity. All work on tests and the UK Core project is expected to be done independently. Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty.

All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

UK policies on academic offenses are available at <https://provost.uky.edu/proposals/guidance-course-proposals/academic-offenses>

Plagiarism When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be, except under specific circumstances (e.g., Writing Center review, peer review) allowed by the Instructor of Record or that person's designee. Plagiarism may also include double submission, self-plagiarism, or unauthorized resubmission of one's own work, as defined by the instructor.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, except where prohibited by the Instructor of Record (e.g., individual take-home exams). However, the actual work must be done by the student, and the student alone, unless collaboration is allowed by the Instructor of Record (e.g., group projects).

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in

question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain. For more information, visit: <https://ombud.uky.edu/students/what-plagiarism>

Cheating. Cheating is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. The fact that a student could not have benefited from an action is not by itself proof that the action does not constitute cheating. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board. For more information, visit: <https://ombud.uky.edu/students/what-cheating>

Misuse of academic records Maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and appropriate privacy of student academic records is an essential administrative function of the University and a basic protection of all students. Accordingly, the actual or attempted falsification, theft, misrepresentation or other alteration or misuse of any official academic record of the University, specifically including knowingly having unauthorized access to such records or the unauthorized disclosure of information contained in such records, is a serious academic offense. As used in this context, "academic record" includes all paper and electronic versions of the partial or complete permanent academic record, all official and unofficial academic transcripts, application documents and admission credentials, and all academic record transaction documents. The minimum sanction for falsification, including the omission of information, or attempted falsification or other misuse of academic records as described in this section is suspension for one semester.

Accommodations due to disability. In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodation, please inform your instructor as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. To receive accommodations in a course, you must provide your instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754, via email (drc@uky.edu) or visit their website (<https://www.uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter/>). DRC accommodations are not retroactive and should therefore be established with the DRC as early in the semester as is feasible.

Students who have attendance accommodations are required to meet with me as soon as possible to set parameters for what constitutes a reasonable number of absences.

Zoom behavior policies. If for unforeseen circumstances the university requires us to move on to Zoom, certain behavioral expectations apply. Students are to remain muted. Avoid the use of distracting photos and images on your Zoom account. Use your full student name, instead of nicknames, initials, first name only, phone name, or ID numbers.

Title IV Compliance Requirements. Federal regulation mandates that federal financial aid funds (Title IV) may only be disbursed to students who are enrolled and engaged in coursework. This regulation mandates that institutions provide evidence of engagement early in each semester. Failure to provide evidence includes sizeable fees and fines for the university. To comply with this mandate, all instructors of undergraduate and graduate courses (including lab courses), independent studies, online courses, and research credit) will be required to confirm

student attendance or engagement in classes during the two-week period following the last day to add a class. To comply with the new Title IV regulation, faculty will be required to report students for non-attendance/nonparticipation/non-engagement through the class roster in MyUK. Once a student is marked for nonattendance/non-participation/non-engagement in the class roster, the student will be dropped from the class and from Canvas with a grade symbol "NA." If an undergraduate student drops below full-time, financial aid disbursement will be reduced. Courses dropped for non-attendance/non-participation/nonengagement will not appear on the student's transcript.

Non-discrimination and Title IX policy. In accordance with federal law, UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 ("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment") (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar6-1>). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation") (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar6-2>). Complaints regarding violations of University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (Institutional Equity), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit Institutional Equity's website (<https://www.uky.edu/eoo>).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct to the Office of Institutional Equity. Students can confidentially report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (<https://www.uky.edu/vipcenter>), the UK Counseling Center (<https://www.uky.edu/counselingcenter>), or University Health Service (<https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health>).

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community. We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community. These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.

We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to creating a safe, equitable, and anti-racist environment. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, or the dean. To submit an official report of bias, hatred, racism, or identity-based violence, visit the [Bias Incident Support Services website](#)

Student resources. At UK, Academic Ombud Services (<https://www.uky.edu/ombud/>) is responsible for resolving academic related problems and conflicts for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution or for which no established procedure exists. Academic Ombud Services is not intended to supplant the normal processes of resolution (contacting the course instructor, department chair, director of undergraduate/graduate studies, and/or associate dean). In cases where there is a clear need to achieve a solution more quickly than normal procedures provide, the Ombud may seek to expedite the process. The two major areas of activity for Academic Ombud Services involve student academic rights and violations of academic integrity. The primary task of Academic Ombud Services is to ensure fair policies, processes, and procedures. Thus, Academic Ombud Services is a neutral office working as an advocate for fairness and equity.

The instructor is required to send alerts for students who are failing the course, not attending, or exhibiting behaviors that warrant a response from UK to ensure their safety and the safety of those around them. See <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/academic-advising/faculty-resources> for an explanation of how these alerts work. Students should report any disruptive, unsafe, or threatening behaviors of others in the classroom immediately.

A wide variety of resources are available to students at UK, including many that pertain to the health, well-being, and welfare of students. Please visit: <https://studentsuccess.uky.edu/get-help>

Class recording. The University of Kentucky Student Code of Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Student Code of Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of Linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an “authorization of use” form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

Intellectual property. All content for this course, including handouts, assignments, and lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be reproduced or sold without prior permission from the instructor. A student may use the material for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this class, such as studying for a comprehensive or

qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship.

Generative AI. You are welcome to use AI to help you understand ideas and concepts from lecture and from your readings. In fact, you will be encouraged to use it to help you identify specific locations that illustrate the landforms you have to map and describe in Google Earth. However, the information you are required to develop in this activity is specified in detail so that the general information produced by AI like ChatGPT is very likely to be incomplete or too general. In other words, work with AI, use it to improve your work, rather than just blindly cutting and pasting the information it produces.

Fall 2024 University of Kentucky
 GEO 351 Physical Landscapes
 Dr. Tony Stallins
[Course syllabus](#)

Date	Day	Topic	
Aug 26	M	Plate tectonics and crustal motion	
Aug 28	W		
Aug 30	F		
Sept 4	W		
Sept 6	F	Volcanic landforms and processes	
Sept 9	M		
Sept 11	W		
Sept 13	F		
Sept 16	M	Test 1	
Sept 18	W	Weathering, mass movements, and erosion	
Sept 20	F		
Sept 23	M		
Sept 25	W		
Sept 27	F	Fluvial landforms and processes	
Sept 30	M		
Oct 2	W		
Oct 4	F		
Oct 7	M	Glacial landscapes	
Oct 9	W		
Oct 11	F		
Oct 14	M		
Oct 16	W	Periglacial landforms and processes	
Oct 18	F		
Oct 21	M		Test 2
Oct 23	W		Aeolian landscapes
Oct 25	F		
Oct 30	W		
Nov 1	F	Coastal landforms and processes	
Nov 4	M		
Nov 6	W		
Nov 8	F	Coral reef	
Nov 11	M		
Nov 13	W		
Nov 15	F	Karst landscapes	

Nov 18	M	
Nov 20	W	
Nov 22	F	
Dec 2	M	Test 3
Dec 4	W	Google Earth landforms
Dec 6	F	
Dec 9	M	Prep Days
Dec 11	W	
Dec 13	F	Reading Day
Dec 16	M	Final exam (1:00 - 3:00 pm)