

GEOL/GEOG 321: Geomorphology
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Introduction to the Lab Exercises

This lab notebook you will turn in consists of all of your completed exercises for Geology/Geography 321. You will assemble the notebook from lab handouts throughout the semester. Keep these labs and all lab handouts in a three ring binder. You will be asked to turn this in on at least two scheduled occasions.

You will need to bring the following items to lab each week:

Calculator (preferably with simple trig functions if possible)
Ruler with 1/10ths of inch AND cm (e.g. C-Thru)
Two #2 to # 4 (i.e. 2H to 4H) pencils, hardness depending on your style of penmanship
Colored pencils - a variety pack. Buy good quality pencils such as Eagle or Berol, not waxy kid's pencils.
Good Soft Eraser
3 Ring Binder
Protractor (recommended for Geology majors)
Tracing Paper (recommended for Geology majors)
Dictionary of Geological Terms (optional, strongly recommended)

Some of the labs are intended for use with the "Atlas of Landforms" (Curran and others, 1984), map and data web sites, and other maps and images provided in lab. There are many instances where parallel readings are important to understanding the lab exercise. Most of these parallel readings are from the class text: "Geomorphology: A Systematic Analysis of Late Cenozoic Landforms " (Bloom, 2004). Full citations of readings are given in the class reading list.

The lab exercises are very important to a satisfactory performance in this class, constituting 30-35% of the final grade. Most students will not have an opportunity to work as a professional 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. Always try to complete as much of the lab as possible during the scheduled lab period; take advantage of the presence of the teaching assistant's help. Cutting labs or leaving lab early warrants little cooperation or sympathy from either the T.A. or the professor.

The sequence of labs varies from year to year, depending upon dates of school holidays, visiting speakers, professional meetings, and class field trips. Most labs are intended to last one week, but there will be exceptions. Some labs may be combined into a one week exercise.

These lab exercises owe a lot to the efforts of excellent teaching assistants in past semesters, including Alison Bell, Matt Cro, Mike Jordan, Ron Linton, Dale Doughty, Randy Rogers, Dan Cenderelli, Scott Morgan, Steve Wanzer, Eric Davis, Rich Todd, Leanne Spurgeon, Jocelyn Smith, Todd Grote, Matt Finkenbinder, and Jason Nellis. They have made many suggestions on how to improve the labs.

The lab exercises are in constant revision as the class content evolves and as we find better ways to accomplish our teaching goals. Please help us in our efforts to present the best possible lab by pointing out any errors or inconsistencies you find in using the manual. Best wishes for a productive and rewarding semester.

Lab Grading

Each lab exercise will be graded on a traditional “10 percentage point” scale, and the lab grade will be based on the percentage of points you earn out of the total points earned in lab. Your lab grade will constitute 35 percent of the final 321 course grade (31.5% if you are taking GEO 525).

Except for students in W sections, lab grading will be based on the following:

Two lab tests: 100 points each, 200 total.

Two or more lab Quizzes: evenly divided, 50 points total.

Lab exercises, including field trip assignments, which will be submitted in a lab book at least twice throughout the semester: 10 points each, 100 total.

Grading for W sections will be as follows:

Two lab tests: 67 points each, 134 total.

Two or more lab Quizzes: evenly divided, 50 points total .

Lab exercises, including field trip assignments, which will be submitted in a lab book at least twice throughout the semester: 6.6 points each, 66 total.

Four 2-page lab reports: 25 points each, 100 total.

Extra credit options are available, but not necessarily encouraged unless you have a topic you want to explore, and will not need much supervision to complete a project. Please contact the TA or Dr. Kite if you are interested. All projects are subject to approval by the TA if they will be used toward the lab grade or Dr. Kite if they will be used toward the overall course grade.

“W” section lab writing assignments will be developed from selected lab or field trip exercises. Detailed requirements will be given for each exercise, but all will involve submission of the first draft of the report to the TA within a week of the lab or field trip. The TA will provide comments and assign 50% of the assignment grade. The student will have a week after receipt of the TAs review to modify the report and submit it to Dr. Kite for the other 50% of the grade.

Other Notes

NO CELL PHONES, BLACKBERRIES, OR SIMILAR DEVICES MAY BE USED IN LAB!!!

Attendance is mandatory. If you are aware of an upcoming absence, please inform the instructor and make arrangements to attend the other lab section. All make up work is the student's responsibility and must be completed before the next lab period for partial credit.

Assignments should be completed by the beginning of the next lab period. Some labs may be complete at the end of class, while others may take extra time outside of the regular lab time. Arrange lab handouts and materials in a three ring binder to keep organized. Lab notebooks will be turned in prior to taking Lab Test 1 and 2, with no exceptions.

Make up lab tests must be scheduled and completed before the next lab, if humanly possibly.

Lab fees must be paid in order to receive a grade for this course.

If you have any questions or issues, please talk to your lab instructor or Dr. Kite. **YOU are responsible** for the grade you receive in this course.

File Name: <http://www.geo.wvu.edu/~kite/LabIntro321.html>