CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

GEOL 2150 Geomorphology

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3	**Lab Hours**: **2**	**Credit Hours**: **4**
Class Time: 3:30-6:00 PM	**Days: Tuesday and Thursday**	**Room: TM 111**

Instructor's Name: Beth Wisely

Instructor's Contact Information: TM 105	**Office Phone:** Ext 2233 (307) 268-2233	**Email:** bwisely@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:
M 2:00-3:00 p.m.
T 2:00-3:30 p.m.
W 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Th 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Course Description: The formation, description and study of landforms, which are a result of destructional and constructional geologic processes. The study of topographic maps and aerial photographs are an integral part of the course.

Statement of Prerequisites: GEOL 1100 recommended, or permission of the instructor.

Goal: To study and gain comprehension of the ubiquitous processes and landforms created by complex interactions between the hydrosphere, atmosphere and the solid Earth's surface. The student will learn how the continual surficial processes involving gravity, water, wind, and ice sculpt the Earth's surface into a myriad of distinctive shapes and features.

Outcomes: An overview of global geomorphic systems will be established and followed by detailed descriptions of unique environments and the landforms created in each setting; including glaciation, weathering, streams, groundwater, tectonic areas, volcanoes, shorelines, and wind processes. The student is expected to learn general geologic terminology pertaining to geomorphology and to understand the dynamic processes that continually build, erode, and shape the Earth. The student is also expected to understand how geomorphic systems have direct influence on humans and all life forms through climatic change and natural geologic hazards. The outcomes will be assessed by regularly scheduled exams, weekly lab and class exercises, writing, a final research project, and through oral dialogue between the instructor and student throughout the course. Casper College General Education Outcomes covered by this course include:

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
- Use the Scientific Method
- Solve problems using critical thinking
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Methodology: The course will have lecture and lab components, will incorporate individual, small group and class exercises, and explore the use of the scientific method in research and analysis.

Evaluation Criteria: Students will be graded using a variety of components including, but not limited to, tests, labs, in-class and take-home assignments, as well as participation and attendance.
Grading percentages
30% labs (~5, worth 6% each)
20% midterm exam
20% final exam
25% final research project and presentation
5% attendance and participation
Totaling 100%

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Text: *Process Geomorphology*, by Ritter, Kochel and Miller. Labs will be delivered to students digitally or in print.
Class Policies: Attendance is mandatory. I reserve the right to lower your grade if you miss 5 or more class periods through the semester. **Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** Check the Casper College Academic Calendar.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: This calendar is a generalized plan of GEOL 2150, and I reserve the right to go faster or slower than the tentative schedule below and to change due dates. Any changes to this schedule will be announced in class, via email, or both.

TENTATIVE AND GENERALIZED COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topics	Readings	Due dates and exams
1	Introduction to Geomorphology	Chapter 1	
2	Internal Forces and Climate	Chapter 2	
3	Weathering	Chapter 3 and 4	Lab 1 due
4	Mass Wasting	Chapter 4 + handouts	
5	Watershed Systems	Chapter 5	Lab 2 due
6	Fluvial Processes and Landforms	Chapter 6 & 7	
7	Wind and Arid Environments	Chapter 8 + handouts	Lab 3 due
8	Review and Catch up	Review	Midterm Exam
9	Glaciers and Glacial Landforms	Chapter 9, 10, 11	
10	Glaciers continued	Chapter 9, 10, 11	Lab 4 due
11	Groundwater	handouts	
12	Karst Topography	Chapter 12	
13	Coastal Processes and Landforms	Chapter 13	Lab 5 due
14	Global Climate Change	Handouts	
15	Research and/or catch up		
16	Student presentations		Presentations
17	Finals Week		Final: Thursday 12/17 @ 10:10 a.m.