

Physics 160 – May Term 2012

Cosmorphology: Creating forms thru geologic and artistic processes

Professors:

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Class meetings:

MTWThF 9:30 am – 1:20 pm Hedco 129

Because of the long hours, there will be no official office hours, students are required to e-mail us any questions they have or to set up an in-person meeting.

The University Catalog defines a credit hour to be at least 40 hours of work. Since this course is 3 credit hours, you should spend a minimum of 120 hours on this class over 3.8 weeks, so approximately 32 hours per week. Class meets 20 hours per week, so you should be prepared to work a minimum of 12 hours per week outside of class time. At the beginning of the semester, this will generally be reading. Later it will involve writing and making art pieces.

Goals:

At the end of this class, students will be able to

- Identify geologic features on other planets and describe how they formed
- Understand the fundamentals and vocabulary of art
- Explore a variety of materials and techniques to communicate a geologic subject
- Create at least one piece of art employing forms found on other planets
- Be able to describe the geologic and artistic inspiration for their piece of art

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on the following:

HW, Labs and In-class exercises	35%
Attendance, Discussion & Preparedness	25%
Field Trip report	10%
Final Project	30%

Class Web site:

Assignments and class goals for each day of class are listed on the class web page at http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/julie_rathbun/May2012/schedule.html.

Labs and other Assignments:

In order to meet the above goals, you need to learn the fundamental concepts of geologic and artistic processes. Classes during the first week will introduce you to geologic processes and artistic processes. After this introduction we will begin working on our artistic study projects. These should consist of 2-8 separate pieces, using multiple media types, and be informed by both the geologic and artistic introductions. The study projects should take a minimum of 8 hours to complete. We will also practice a tool of geologists, geologic mapping. This activity combines art and geology, but more from a geologists perspective. We will see how nature created one of the geologic forms, impact craters. We will work on assignments nearly every class day, some in class and some as homework. Because of the fast pace of May Term and the fullness of the class schedule, make up assignments will not be allowed and late assignments will not be accepted.

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Attendance, Discussion & Preparedness:

Class meets every day with some assignment due that day, so absences will be noticed and will drastically affect your grade. Absences, for any reason, cannot be made up. Based on the above grading scheme, missed assignments will lower your grade by a third of a letter grade.

Active participation in every class assignment is mandatory. This does not mean merely showing up, but also includes asking thoughtful questions of presenters (not just the instructors), sharing thoughts and insights about the reading, and giving your opinion and backing it up with facts. A student who attends all classes, demonstrates that they have done the assignment by asking thoughtful questions and making interesting comments, and participates fully in class activities will receive an A for this part of class. Being late, sleeping, using your cell phone, carrying on side conversations, playing games, and otherwise not engaging in the class will drastically lower your grade.

Your comments should demonstrate that you are prepared for class (completed the reading and other assignments) and have thought about the material. Preparedness also includes bringing all necessary supplies to class, including art materials, reference images, etc. Forgetting these materials will lower your grade.

Field Trips:

You are required to take at least two field trips during the term. One will be to Griffith Observatory another will be to several local Art Museums. The purpose of these trips is for inspiration and they will be at your own pace. You are required to take photos and notes on things you learn or otherwise inspire your work. You will give a presentation (including images) on what you learned and how it might influence your final project. The presentations will be on May 15th.

Final Project:

The final project will consist of at least one piece of art inspired by geologic forms, an artist's statement, and a paper describing the geology of the forms that inspired the artwork. The expectation is that you will spend at least 30 hours on this final art piece. No oil or 3D pieces as it is not achievable in this time frame. In preparation for the final project, a project proposal will be due on May 16th and an outline and bibliography will be due on May 21st. The remainder of the final project is due at 9:30 am on May 24th, late projects will result in an automatic failure of the course. On May 24th, each student will present their final project to the class and participate in a critique of all the art pieces. Grades will be based on creativity, interpretation of the scientific subject matter, description of the piece and the scientific accuracy of the description, and ease of reading the written work.

Civility:

There will be several class presentations during the semester. In order to not disturb the speaker, the classroom doors will be locked during student presentations and late students will not be allowed to enter the room until the speaker is finished and we are transitioning to the next one. During the final project critique, you must be present for the entire critique or you will receive a failing grade in the class.

Students are expected to take care of their art supplies and art projects. Destroying supplies, using them incorrectly, or other failures to clean up will result in lower participation grade.

During long art days (study projects, final projects), a student or two will be the designated "clean-up crew". These students will be responsible for staying until 5:30 pm, cleaning up after everyone, ensuring the room is as clean as it was the first day of class, and making sure the door is locked. Students will sign up for a night to work on the crew. Failure of this great responsibility will result in a grade reduction of one letter grade.