

**UMBC UGC Change in Existing Course: GES 310: Geomorphology**

Date Submitted: February 2017

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2017

	name	email	phone	dept
Dept Chair	Alan Yeakley	<a href="mailto:yeakley@umbc.edu">yeakley@umbc.edu</a>	52002	GES
Contact	Andrew Miller	<a href="mailto:miller@umbc.edu">miller@umbc.edu</a>	53151	GES

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

change		current	proposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Course Number(s)	GES 310	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Title	Geomorphology	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcript Title (≤24c)	Geomorphology	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Recommended Course Preparation		<b>PHYS 111 or PHYS 121</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prerequisite	You must complete GES 110 with a grade of C or better.	You must have completed GES 110 or an introductory physical geology course with a grade of C or better, and Math 150 or equivalent with a grade of C or better. <del>Either PHYS 111 or 121 strongly preferred.</del>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credits	3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Max. Total Credits		
<input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, how many total credits?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

**CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Study of weathering and the soil mantle, the development of hillslopes, stream valleys and river plains, and the significance of structural differences and climatic variation on geomorphic processes and landscape changes.

**PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** no changes  change in description

Study of earth surface processes and landforms, including recognition of large-scale landscape patterns related to geologic structure; weathering and soils; hillslopes and mass wasting; watersheds and hydrologic processes; rivers and fluvial processes; coastal and estuarine processes and landforms; and the effects of glacial and periglacial activity on the landscape. We will also discuss the impact of human activity on erosion and sediment yield and on landscape form and process.

**RATIONALE FOR CHANGE** Past experience indicates that students with insufficient preparation in mathematics and physical science tend to earn a grade of D or F in this course at much higher rates than other students. For this course, background in physics is more important than chemistry. Adding MATH 150 as a prerequisite will ensure that students enrolling in the class will be better prepared and have a higher probability of success, and recommending PHYS 111 or 121 as preparation will forewarn students that further science coursework provides better background for this course.