

ES322 Geomorphology – Fall Term 2015

Introduction to Journal Reading and Article Summaries (Burbank et al., 1999)

Science is conducted in a variety of ways with a variety of applications. The academic discipline of Geomorphology crosses over many study areas (geology, biology, chemistry, archeology, engineering). One of the primary ways in which scientists communicate is through publication of research in scientific journals. The journal “Nature” is one such publication that is widely regarded as one of the premier science journals in the world.. This exercise involves the following tasks:

- (1) students reading a high-level journal article, compiling a list of key words and technical terms,
- (2) students reviewing key words using web and instructor resources,
- (3) students writing a 1-page summary of the article,
- (4) students uploading summary to Moodle ES322 Class Page by 10 AM, Friday Oct. 23

The learning objectives include:

- (1) familiarization with applications in the sub-discipline of geomorphology,
- (2) experience reading scientific journal articles,
- (3) encountering, managing, and deciphering technical scientific terms and analytical techniques,
- (4) organizing thoughts and presenting written / oral summaries to colleagues.

For this exercise, students will read the following article:

Burbank and others, 1999, Bedrock incision, rock uplift and threshold hillslopes in the northwestern Himalayas: Nature, v. 379, p. 505-510.

http://www.wou.edu/las/physci/taylor/g322/Burbank_etal_1996_Himlayan_Erosion.pdf

This article is written for technical specialists who have advanced graduate degrees and specialized training in geology/geomorphology. Students will prepare an approximately 800-word synthesis summary of the focus theme topic, based on the readings. The general format should include: (1) Introduction to the Problem / Issue, (2) Summary of Main Points, (3) Final Discussion of the Relevance, (4) References Cited, and (5) pertinent figures and tables. The summaries should be word-processed, formatted Times New Roman font, 12 pt, single spaced, with student name, author name, and title of paper; 1-inch margins with page number in 0.5-in footer space. The reading written summary will be converted into an Acrobat *.PDF document and uploaded to the Moodle class web page by the prescribed due dates (see below). An example reading summary format is posted on the class web site at:

http://www.wou.edu/las/physci/taylor/g322/Med_Geo_Example_Summary.pdf