

# Johnston 000M – May Term 2009

## Cosmorphology: Creating forms thru geologic and artistic processes

### Professors:

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### General Overview:

This page is intended as a guide to help you construct your course contract. Things to think about when writing your contract include: How do your goals differ from those stated? How will assignments help you to reach these goals? How can we evaluate whether you have reached your goals? What evidence will you produce? Your contract is due to us on 4/28.

### 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

### Assignments:

In order to meet these goals, you need to learn the fundamental concepts of geologic and artistic processes. Classes during the first week will introduce you to geologic processes (4/28 and 5/1) and artistic processes (4/30 and 5/4). After this introduction we will begin working on our artistic study projects. These should be informed by both the geologic and artistic introductions. On 5/7 we will practice a tool of geologists, geologic mapping. This activity combines art and geology, but more from a geologists perspective. The artistic study projects must be completed by 5/11 so that we can discuss them in preparation for the final project. On 5/12 we will see how nature created one of the geologic forms, impact craters. By 5/14 we will each decide on our final project which will be shown to the campus on 5/21. Along the way, various reading and laboratory activities will be assigned.

### Final Project:

The final project should 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 art work.

### Evaluation:

We suggest evaluations based on participation and completion of a final project. When we evaluate participation, we will consider if you attended the class and, more importantly, what you contributed to class. Did you come prepared to participate? Did you ask questions? Did you answer questions? Was it obvious that you were progressing toward your goals for the course? When we evaluate the final project, we will consider your technique for creating the work, your understanding of the geologic background behind the piece, and your artistic vision. Were your artistic goals well communicated in your paper? Were your explanations of the geology clear and correct?

### Field Trips

We have planned several field trips: the Jet Propulsion Lab (5/2), a local art museum (5/6), and Griffith Observatory (5/13). Please consider how these trips could be useful in assisting you in meeting your goals. In your contract, discuss which will you attend and why.