



Keep this
sheet for
reference.

Santa Barbara Santa Barbara City College
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Earth 131 - Geologic Field Studies in the Eastern Sierra Nevada

Pre-Field Trip Orientation

WELCOME to what may be one of the most meaningful academic experiences you will have in your college career! Many students who have participated in our field studies trips have returned with a new appreciation for the incredible beauty of our earth, and how it came to be this way. In this class, you learn about what the rocks have to tell us, geologic processes that are occurring now and in the past, and the earth's history. And your teachers and are eager to share it with you!

To be best prepared for this experience, please read the following carefully.

❖ **ACADEMICS AND BACKGROUND**

- **Nature of course.** Please note that Earth 131 is a rigorous academic short course. You will be earning 2 units of credit in 5 days, so expect a brisk pace. Generally, we are up at first light, and back in camp shortly before sunset. Evening time is usually spent studying – there is very little down time/free time.
- **Prerequisite.** This course has a prerequisite of either concurrent enrollment in or completion of either a geology course or a physical geography course. The courses in our department that satisfy this requirement are Earth 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 122, 125, 126, 132, 141 (or Geog 101.) or 151. If you have passed or are currently passing one of these courses, you already have the background to succeed in this course.

If you have not had one of these courses, and have not already received information on how to satisfy this requirement, you must see Michael Robinson, Jeff Meyer, or Erin O'Connor immediately. They will direct you to outside independent reading/study that will prepare you. You **MUST** complete this independent work before you can attend the trip.

❖ **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

- **Lecture Stop Attendance.** There will be 5-7 lecture stops each day, including Day 1. Lectures will vary in length from 45 minutes to 2 hours in length.
- **Field Trip Notebook.** 1/3 of your grade is based on your field notebook. Your notes will be graded on completeness, neatness, and organization. You will turn in your completed field trip notebook on Sunday when you get on the bus prior to returning to Santa Barbara. Notebooks will be graded and returned to you about 2 weeks after the trip.
- **Morning Quizzes.** 1/3 of your grade will be based on your quiz scores. There will be a quiz each morning (Thurs-Sun) on the previous day's stops. The first quiz on Thursday morning will also include a **Geologic Time Scale quiz**, which you must pass with an 80% or better. The timescale will be included in your field trip notebook, and is also available at this meeting.
- **Final Exam.** The final exam, worth 1/3 of your grade, will be given approximately a week after the notebooks are returned. Flyers will be posted and group emails sent to announce when you may pick up your graded notebook. You will need to sign up for an exam time (from several choices) when you pick up your notebook.

❖ **PREPARING FOR THE TRIP**

- **Plan ahead in the rest of your courses.** If you have not already talked to your other instructors about missing material and making up work, do so immediately. Most teachers are supportive, but they need advance notice for making up work.... The more time the better. Try to get ahead of schedule in as many courses as you can (you will be tired when you get back!) If you have any teachers that are reluctant to allow make-up work, have them contact one of the trip instructors.
- **Arrange a ride.** Carpooling with a non-field trip driver is best. You can park in SBCC student lots if you have all-day parking permits, but we **DO NOT** recommend it, due to past vandalism incidents. Parking on campus is at your own risk.
- **Weather.** You will be outside at the mercy of extremes in weather. The temperature *may* be in the 90s during the day and *may* drop into the 10s at night. The evenings in this area are not like the mild, balmy evenings in Santa Barbara. During the trip, we will be at elevations ranging from sea level to 3500+ feet. It may rain or snow. Check the weather for Bishop, California and Owens Valley on the Internet right before you pack.

❖ **PACKING YOUR GEAR**

- **Equipment list:** Please refer to the equipment list you were given when you paid at the cashier, or pick up a new one.
- **List A on the Equipment List.** This is the gear that you will only be seeing at camp in the evenings. The crew moves your camp stuff from camp to camp, and you won't have access to it during the day.
- Be sure to have a **warm sleeping bag rated for sub-freezing temperatures, an insulating pad, and a 2-3 person tent with a rain fly.** (No "condo tents.") If you don't own this stuff, borrow or rent it. You may share a tent with someone else, **but only 2 people per tent.**
- Bring your gear in **durable luggage or duffle bags.** No backpacks with frames, since these can easily be bent. Your luggage will be handled roughly. Also, airline-style suitcases are not recommended for camping. The rollers get clogged with dirt and

they don't pack well. Duffel or zipper-type soft bags seem to work the best.

- **Do not pack breakables.** We can almost guarantee that breakables will be broken!
- **Put your name** on every piece of luggage you bring.
- **List B on the Equipment List.** This is the gear you want with you during the day. Bring a separate day-pack for this stuff.
- Bring a **small flat-folding beach chair or "tube" chair** with you during the day for lecture stops.
- Pack a **large lunch** (or two lunches) for the first day only. You will be hungrier than you think by dinner time at 7:15 pm.
- Bring one or two **filled water bottles.** We carry water during the day to refill.
- **Swim/shower stuff:** Always keep with you during the day, in case plans change. Also your **rain gear** if rain is forecast.
- **NOTE: Bring extra batteries, pens, paper, etc. if you think you might run out or run short.** Due to the size of our group, we won't be stopping at convenience stores/gas stations to buy things. (Vehicles are gassed during lecture stops)

❖ PREPARATION FOR DEPARTURE

TUESDAY, October 11 (the day before the trip)

- **Bring your "List A" luggage** to the EBS loading dock **between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** on Tuesday morning. Be sure all of your luggage is clearly labeled. You will not see this gear again until camp on Wednesday, October 12.
- **Buy a 3-ring binder** (3/4 or 1" thick) for your notebook, plus plenty of paper (100+ sheets), pens, and 8-10 colored pencils.
- **If you tend to oversleep....** set multiple alarms or give each other a call on Wednesday morning to wake each other up.
- **Get a good night's sleep the night before the trip.** It makes a big difference!

WEDNESDAY, October 12, 5:45 am sharp! DON'T BE LATE!!!

- **Remember to bring your 3-ring binder, a large lunch, one or two filled containers of water,** and other "List B" items.
- **Go to the loading dock** outside EBS 123.
- **Check-in at EBS 123** – pick up your notebook and notebook label.
- **Board the bus or van (and don't forget to use the rest-room before we go!)**
- **DEPART AT 6:00 A.M. WE DON'T WAIT FOR PEOPLE TO SHOW UP. Be here on time.**

If you show up after we are gone: You are **not allowed** to follow us in a private vehicle for insurance/liability reasons (school regulations). **If** you miss the bus, the best course of action is to go home, and then drop the class no later than Thursday for a "W." No refunds for the field trip fee are granted to no-shows (food has already been purchased for you).

❖ ON THE ROAD

- **First Stop** is approximately 2 hours after leaving campus. We won't be stopping en-route, so don't drink too much coffee!
- **Lecture stops.** Bring your notebook and note-taking materials to each stop. Also your chair.
- **Be prepared** to hike short distances. Have **closed-toed shoes** with you every day (sneakers work great).
- **Leave and re-board the vehicles as efficiently as possible.** Slow boarding and un-boarding of vehicles delay our arrival times in camp and/or cut down on time at the swimming pool stop.
- **Travel between stops - Travel time is academic time.** Your attention and participation is expected en-route, unless your instructor indicates otherwise - no cell phones, iPods, playing cards, etc. in the vehicles. Cell phones or music with earbuds/headphones are allowed in camp until 10:00 p.m. lights out/quiet hour. Ask if in doubt.
- **Swim/shower stops.** We plan on having one swim/shower stop during the trip. Washing stations are provided in camp to wash your hands before and after meals. Consider bringing handi-wipes - these are great for freshening up.
- **Convenience stops.** Again, we are unable to stop at any stores with a group this size. Bring everything you need.

❖ CAMP ROUTINE (Your notebook will contain additional information about camp logistics.)

- **Camping.** We camp in primitive camps (no picnic tables), but latrines (outhouses) will be available. There are also plenty of propane lights in the kitchen area for eating, studying, socializing, etc. **"Lights out" and quiet at 10:00 p.m.**
- **Food.** SBCC's culinary department provides breakfast and dinner each day in camp –vegetarian options are available at every meal. We assemble our own lunches from a variety of items provided at breakfast time each morning. If you have a food allergies/sensitivity, let us know at the end of the orientation meeting.
- **Work crews.** You will be assigned to one dinner "KP crew".... Our job as a group is to do the evening dishes.

❖ CONDUCT (see the green *Standards of Student Conduct* sheet for more details)

- Please remember, as a participant on this field studies course, at all times you represent Santa Barbara City College; therefore, we ask that you conduct yourself in a way that reflects well on SBCC.
- Per school policy, the Standards of Student conduct apply from the moment we leave campus until the moment we return, and all disciplinary measures that would apply on-campus also apply in the field.
- Absolutely **NO alcohol or drugs** are allowed at any time of the day or evening while on the trip.

❖ BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE MEETING: Did you....

- **Check and initial the roll sheet** to make sure you have officially 1) paid the \$140 fee, and, 2) added the class?
- **Read / fill in / sign the green forms?** (Medical Card-both sides, Liability Waiver, Student Conduct agreement?)
NOTE: **if you are under 18,** you also need a parent's signature on the Liability Waiver, plus one other form, (see instructor)
- **Leave the green forms with us?**
- **Report any food allergies/sensitivities to an instructor? (Or other medical issues about which we should be aware.)**