

University of Saint Francis'

Southwestern Field Studies

Western Parks Adventure

Biol 356; May 2008

Syllabus

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Texts:

- *Sierra Club Naturalist Guide to the Desert of the Southwest; Peggy and Lane Lawson, 2000 (2nd ed.)* required
- *A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals* (Peterson Guide Series) or appropriate substitute
- And a Field Guide provided by instructors

Time and Place:

Schedule: Dates include, but are not limited to Feb.17, March 30, April, 13, 27 and May 4th (if needed) and the trip May 5-18, 2008. Sunday meetings will be from 7-9 pm unless otherwise noted. (See Itinerary following this page)

Objectives:

- To learn to use regional field guides to identify native vascular plants, mammals, rocks and minerals to their lowest possible level
- To learn to characterize large scale geologic features of the region and their causes
- To develop an appreciation for how the biosphere and geosphere are interrelated and how they have affected the historical and cultural development of the region and its peoples

- To allow students to stretch their perceived physical limits via wilderness backpacking and a few days of self-sufficient living
- To help students develop and participate in the life sport of backpacking
- To show students what virgin wilderness is really like!
- In order to accomplish these objectives, students will need to practice using field guides, taking notes from reading material and attend lectures on various topics prior and during the trip, in the lab and in the field.
- Each student will create a daily journal of their observations, and thoughts as well as listings of natural phenomena observed and reflection on these as to how they fit in to the regional setting. The journal is separate from notes taken during the lectures and readings. Reflections on notes are appropriate journal material

Students will also choose, and have approved, a topic for an extensive literature research project to be done upon return to campus. The project will be not less than 10 text (double-spaced and **proofread**) pages, referenced in an acceptable style. You will be graded on content and mechanics! **All Materials are due in the science office by noon Friday, June 16, 2008**

All students must agree to subscribe to the *USF Field Trip Safety Policy* included in this text. Forfar Field Station is considered an extension of the USF campus when we are on Andros. As such, there will no tolerance for open containers of alcohol nor the use of any controlled substances. Students found to be in non-compliance will, at the discretion of the Director, be asked to leave the island at their own expense.

Course Grading:

Three field Quizzes @ 10%	=	30%
(if these do not all occur, the grade portion will be equally dived and assigned to the research paper and journal)		
***Active Participation		15%
*Journal with daily entrees		25%
**Research Paper		30%
TOTAL		100%

A 90%, 80%, 70%, 60% cut off will be used for A, B, C, and D grades.

*Journal entries should include reflections on reading assignments from the text as well as daily observations (**see the section on journaling in field guide**). Last time grades averaged only in the 70% range because people did not follow directions! Those that did averaged well over 90%.

** **The research paper** will be delivered electronically by **June 16, 2008** to **Drs. Hurley AND Wiedman**. It will be on an approved topic of your choice accepted by either Drs. Wiedman or Hurley. To have a topic approved, you will write the topic on a regular notebook sized paper and then write 2-3 sentences on the topic and how you wish to address it or what you hope to learn while researching it. This paper will be signed (or it can be done via e-mail electronically) and a copy of it will be the front page of your

paper when turned in. This keeps us from having to remember who and what we approved. We can also add comments to assist you to the page at the time of approval (this is worth 5% of the paper grade). The paper itself can be styled and referenced via any acceptable method (MLA, et cet), you choose the one you feel most comfortable with. It will be DS, 12 point Times New Roman font and between 7-10 pages long (figures are welcome but do not count as text pages). It should have at least 4 external college level sources (no wikipedia please). We have some source materials that may help depending on the topic so please ask. Also we have some resources to buy new reference material for the class, so if you see things that interest you in the book shops we stop at, please feel free to suggest items. Ask questions before making mistakes. That is why we are here to assist you.

***Jenny, Andy, and Dr. Short handle most of the logistics of house keeping at and between campsites. You will be asked to participate in “housekeeping chores” and the degree to which you participate and your willingness to participate will play a large roll in the Active Participation aspect of your grade and he will have the major role in determination of your grade in this item. **When they speak, consider it from Drs. Hurley and Wiedman’s mouths.**

Logistics:

This course requires strenuous activity not suited for all persons and may require the approval of a physician at the discretion of USF. Equipment including Backpacks, Sleeping Gear, Tents and personal needs are the responsibility of the participant. Water filters and backpacking stoves (two exceptionally expensive items) will be provided by the instructor. There is an **additional fee of \$1100 (if paid in full by March 3, 2008; \$1150 after that date but before March 31, 2008)** that covers the field experience in May. This fee includes all Transportation, Camping and Hiking Fees, Entry Fees, Lodging (if any), Field Guide, Meals on trail or in camp. Meals in transit or out of camp (Probably 1 night and 2 lunches) will be the responsibility of the participants. **This fee is in addition to USF tuition.**

Participants are expected (and will document) 50 miles of training hikes (minimum of 20 with pack on) prior to the May 5-18 trip. Some will be scheduled as optional with the instructors but can be done independently.

Reading materials will be assigned to be completed prior to the class meeting on that topic. Quizzes on the readings will be given at the discretion of the instructor.

******* If you have a disabling condition that will require an accommodation in tests or class structure, please advise the instructor at the beginning of the course.*******

******Beginning Backpacking may not be taken concurrent with Southwestern or Southern Appalachian Field Studies. ******

Important Note:

Because of the fluid nature of this class, the tentative schedule may need to be refined in progress in response to weather changes and other opportunities. Please remember that being flexible and cheerful will help out greatly. Much of the learning in this type of course and environment comes from “osmosis” from just being in this unique environment. You will get much more from the experience by enthusiastically participating whenever possible. If you have any special needs, please make certain that the instructors know of them before they become a problem. Wilderness, by its very nature can be unpredictable and unforgiving...and dangerous. This is part of its allure! Please be as prepared as possible by doing the activities suggested prior to the trip experience and be ready to accept the judgment of the faculty to insure your safety and wellbeing. We want everyone to stretch their personal envelopes with this experience, but we also want everyone to return safely to tell the tales about it to others.

Have a great time and learn too!