

Regional Field Studies:

Spring 2008

Oceanography of the Southern California Bight

May 27-30, 2008

OCN195 (#31690) / GEOG195 (#31322) / ES 195 (#33594)

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Course Overview

This 4-day, 3-night trip begins in La Jolla and ends near Point Conception. The course content will focus on coastal landforms, processes and ecosystems within the Southern California Bight. We will discuss the meteorological and oceanographic setting, the geological evolution of the region, natural resources, and human interactions in the coastal environment. The trip will include a full-day boat trip to East Anacapa Island to explore island biogeography.

Texts and References

Students will be provided with a packet of related reference material and a list of additional references. No textbook is required for purchase as there is no one text that covers the content of the course. The closest appropriate and comprehensive text that students may choose to purchase is Living with the Changing California Coast by Gary Griggs, Kiki Patsch and Lauret Savoy, University of California Press, 2005. An excellent companion text is Natural History of the Islands of California by Allan Schoenherr, C. Robert Feldmeth, and Michael J. Emerson, University of California Press, 2003. Books are available through <http://www.amazon.com> for \$19 and \$25, respectively.

General Logistics

Students will provide their own transportation; carpooling is essential. There will be several stops each day to explore and discuss course topics. Total driving distance for the course is approximately 350 miles; the return trip home is approximately 250 miles. Each day's official activities will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. Students are responsible for their own food and lodging; however some arrangements have been made by the instructor (see detail sheet). We will be doing a lot of walking over sand and uneven terrain; some beach access requires climbing stairs. The landing at East Anacapa Island requires a somewhat challenging climb up a ladder from the boat. See detail sheet for information.

Fees

All students must pay a fee of \$58. This fee covers the boat trip to East Anacapa Island and the first nights lodging at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. **This payment must be made within the first 10 days after registration.** If payment is not made, the student will be dropped from the course. Payment should be made with the Cashiers Office. See attached for details. Other minor fees will be incurred during each day, such as State Park entrance fees and camping fees; the trip total for these fees is approximately \$30.

Course expectations

Students are expected to participate in all field course activities. Students need to follow directions, be prompt, be attentive and take notes during field trip stops. I reserve the right to tell any student to leave the course at any time for any misconduct, disruptive behavior, or any behavior which does not promote the learning environment. Drivers must obey all traffic regulations and drive in a safe and defensive manner.

Course grade

Your grade will be based on your participation and answers to daily questions. Students who participate in all course activities will automatically be assigned a "C." Students who complete and turn in answers to daily questions will be graded based on the content of those answers.

Question of the Day

Each day, a question will be given based on some information given the previous day. Students will be expected to use their notes and provided references to answer those questions. Answers should be 1-2 typed pages each. Answers should have good composition. There will be 4 questions given. Questions are due to the instructor by Monday, June 9. Answers will be graded on the basis of the content, completeness, and general writing proficiency.

What Students Need to Do ASAP

- Pay the fee to the cashier
- Return the student information sheet, waiver, field trip participation agreement, and cashier receipt to the instructor.
- Carefully read the detailed information sheet
- Begin to look for a carpool buddy. I will provide a list of enrolled students with e-mail addresses and phone numbers so that you may contact other students in the class to arrange rides.

Class begins on Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 a.m. at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps

- I-5 S to La Jolla Village Dr.—Exit 28; turn right/westbound
- La Jolla Village Drive will curve to the right and become North Torrey Pines Road (about 1 mile)
- Left turn onto Expedition Way (about 0.5 miles; signal and sign to Birch Aquarium)
- Drive down the hill. Left into parking lot.
- We will assemble in the parking lot, and then walk to the beach for our first official stop and discussion. Restrooms will be available before we leave for Stop 2.

Mileage from Palomar College is approximately 28 miles. With no traffic, this takes about 40 minutes. However, this will be a work day and southbound traffic on I-5 can be difficult, so allow double the time.

This will be a truly memorable trip and a great learning experience! Call me with any questions you have. See you in May!