
Course Code & No. - Section:	ODAL – 302
Course Title (Credits):	Natural History of the Southwest
Term & Year:	Spring /Summer 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN):	10162
Instructors:	Rosie Hackett and Andy Rost
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Office:	TCES 2 nd floor SNC faculty area
Office Hours:	M-W 1:30-3:30 and by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	TBA
Location:	TCES 115
Prerequisites	
Corequisites	ODAL 450

Course Description:

This field course is designed to not only expose students to a range of Natural History topics specific to the Southwest region of the United States but to also enhance students understanding of the terrain they will be travelling through during the Extended Field Course, ODAL 450. Course topics include geology, flora, fauna, climate, human history, interpretation skills, ecological processes, and a life long appreciation for the Southwest. Course work and instructor guidance will occur pre-expedition, expedition, and post-expedition encouraging students to drive their own learning. NOTE: Students must be co-registered in ODAL 450 in order to take this class.

Student Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

1. Understand and recognize basic geological features and processes of the Southwest region.
2. Understand and recognize major biotic communities in the Southwest and how climatic patterns influence these communities.
3. Identify and describe common plants and animals of the Southwest.
4. Identify and describe common animals of the Southwest.
5. Understand general ecological processes that shape biological communities of the Southwest
6. Understand human history in the Southwest including native people and newer arrivals and how these human communities were affect by and affect the Southwest region.
7. Demonstrate interpretation skills to share the region.
8. Learn the processes by which one can continue to learn about new ecosystems.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Course spans pre and post extended field course with some assessments occurring before and some after the trip.

Written assignments; During the weeks leading up to the trip, students will have an assignment per week posted on course Moodle site. Each week's assignment focuses on the different topic with questions designed to focus student research and draw upon key concepts.

Natural history field journal; During the field course, students will keep a journal devoted to your observations, questions, inspirations, and identifications all related to natural history.

In field interpretation; During the field course, students will deliver two different interpretative lessons for the group (including instructors) on a topic related to the natural history of the Southwest.

Species identification; During the field course, students will identify ten plant and ten animal species with images, drawings, and/or written description provided in your field journal to help student identify species and for later verification.

In field drawings; During the field course, students will draw several species of plants and animals (# to be determined) to be kept in your natural history field journal.

Grading Policy

Roughly half the points are assigned for pre-trip assignments and half during trip

Student's grade will be assessed accordingly;

A > 90%, B > 80%, C > 70%: D > 60%, F < 60%.

	Number of Assignments	Points	Total Points
On campus assignments			
Written assignments	7	30	210
In the field assignments			
Natural history journal	15	3	45
In field interpretation	2	50	100
Species identification	20	3	60
In field drawings	10	5	50
			465

Instructional Strategies

This course is largely student driven, with research topics provided by instructors to guide students. Class will use the course Moodle site to download assignments. Class will meet periodically during the semester with greater frequency towards the end of the semester.

Required Texts and Materials

Naturalist's Guide to Canyon Country, David B. Williams

Recommended Texts and Material

Sowell, J. 2001. Desert Ecology, University of Utah Press.

Elmore, F. 1976 (or newer). Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Uplands, Western National Parks Association.

Tomoff, C. Birds of Prescott, Arizona (annotated checklist)

<http://www.naturalhistorynetwork.org>

Consequences for Violating the Faculty/Student Honor Code:

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and consequences for violating it to students are the start of their classes and for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, and FABRICATION and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the honor code become part of a student academic record.

SNC'S DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS FOR HONOR CODE VIOLATIONS:

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

Academic Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

Class Schedule

Schedule for Spring/summer 2016

Week	Due Dates	Topics	Notes
1	3/25	Google Earth – where are we?	
2	4/1	Climate/Geography	
3	4/8	Geology	
4	4/15	Ecology	
5	4/22	Flora /Fauna	
6	4/29	People, native and new	
7	5/5	Field journal practice	
Field course time	5/15-		