

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Department of Geography & Global Studies
#29954, GEOG165 - National Parks, Section 1, Spring Break Session, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 4:00-6:00pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	We have a mandatory prep meeting on 2/21/17 from 4:00-5:30pm for organization, signing waivers, and Q&A in WSQ105.
Class:	Our departure and arrival point will be in front of the University Police Department (South Parking Garage on 7 th Street). Departure is 3/25/17 @ 4:30am, and drop-off on 4/2/17 @ 9pm.

Course Format

This course is a geographic exploration course, which means this class does not meet during regularly scheduled times. Instead course hours will be spent in the field experiencing three National Parks located in California. All course materials are provided to you on Canvas so you should review the readings and materials ahead of time.

MYSJSU

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

University Catalog: An exploration of the history, philosophy, and science of park and wilderness preservation. Includes site visits to selected parks and wilderness areas. 3-units.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Define and use basic geographic tools and techniques.*
Students must participate in logistics and field operations required for studying remote locales. Common field measurement tools will also be used for data collection and analysis, and students will keep a journal logging their explorations. Students will learn basic landscape photography and compile a digital archive for record.
- 2. Demonstrate professional communication skills.*

Students must work to introduce interesting background content to the class at selected sights, and also individually present their key course takeaway during a concluding reflection session.

3. *Demonstrate understanding of and ability to analyze and critique human and environment interactions.* Students will address this topic specifically in their final exam essay.

Required Texts, Readings & Materials

Textbook

In an effort to keep student costs low no textbook is required for this course. Supporting readings and web content listed on the course schedule are posted to the Canvas 'Files' for your convenience.

Required Equipment

In addition to appropriate outdoor clothing, footwear, and personal toiletries/accessories, student must have:

- Tent (single or shared)
- Sleeping Pad
- Sleeping Bag
- Flashlight or headlamp (preferred)
- Utensil Set
- Plate/Bowl/Mug

All belongings must be carried on your person or fit within, or strapped to, a backpack. Keep in mind early Spring temperatures may reach +80°F during the daytime (at DV), but nights will be cold (possibly below freezing in Yosemite) so pack and dress accordingly. You should expect rain, possibly even hail or snowfall, so waterproofed jackets with hoods and gore-tex athletic/ hiking shoes are ideal to stay dry.

Transportation, activities, snacks and meals will be provided to you as part of your tuition except where (\$) is listed on the course schedule – anything listed as an extra expense (\$) is optional. In the case of food and beverages, if that which is provided is not suitable to you please bring your own alternatives.

Items necessary for the camp (kitchen) and your backpacks will be loaded into the cargo van first, then any remaining space may be used for student amenities such as lounge chairs, wetsuits, surfboards, etc.

Recommended Readings

- Brinkley, Douglas. 2010. *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*. New York: Harper Perennial.
- Bryan, Scott T. and Betty Tucker-Bryan. 2015. *The Explorer's Guide to Death Valley National Park, 3rd Edition*. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Press.
- Chiles, Frederic Caire. 2015. *California's Channel Islands: A History*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press.
- Muir, John. 1912. *The Yosemite*. New York: The Century Co.
http://valut.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/writings/the_yosemite/
- Keiter, Robert. 2013. *To Conserve Unimpaired: The Evolution of the National Park Idea*. Washington: Island Press.
- Miles, John. 2009. *Wilderness in National Parks: Playground or Preserve?* Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.
- Ogden, Kate Nearpass. 2015. *Yosemite*. London: Reaktion Books.
- U.S. House Committee on the Public Lands, Hetch Hetchy Dam Site, 63rd Cong., 1st sess. (25–28 June 1913; 7*

July 1913), (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913), 25–29, 165–66, 213–14, 235–38.
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5721>

Wilson, Randall K. 2014. America's Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield: 63-104.

Apps

The Night Sky

California Tide Pools

Useful Data Sets

Several students will be concurrently taking courses requiring research projects and posters. Please consider this as an opportunity to take advantage of the following datasets to support your Geography 165 learning:

Channel Islands Regional GIS Collaborative <http://www.cirgis.org/home.html>

Desert Research Institute Death Valley, California Climate Data 1961-Present
<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?ca2319>

Kushner, David J., et al. 2011. A multi-decade time series of kelp forest community structure at the California Channel Islands. Ecology 94: 2655. [monitoring data with XY coordinates linked in article]
<http://esapubs.org/archive/ecol/E094/245/metadata.php>

NPSpecies <https://irma.nps.gov/npspecies>

U.S. Geological Survey. Channel Islands GIS Data Catalog.

<http://coastalmap.marine.usgs.gov/regional/contusa/westcoast/socal/cinms/data.html>

U.S. National Weather Service. Santa Cruz Island Automated Weather Station Data.

http://www.climateanalyzer.org/medn/raws/santa_cruz_raws/

U.S. National Park Service. Yosemite GIS (with links to other NPS GIS data sources at page bottom).

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/gis.htm>

U.S. National Park Service, Yosemite Statistics. <http://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/management/statistics.htm> &
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/natural-resource-statistics.htm>

Library Liaison

You can seek assistance from Nyle Monday in the MLK library at nyle.monday@sjsu.edu or (408) 808-2041.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

- 1) Active **Group Participation** in this course is mandatory and imperative to the overall success of our field trip (CLO 1). Students have been placed into groups and have been assigned meal and logistics responsibilities. All members of the group receive the same grade.
- 2) National Parks have scenic vistas and points of interest worth documenting. Basic landscape photography skills will be covered (CLO1). Then following each fieldtrip the class will collectively build a **Digital Archive** of their finest photographs including captions on Instagram.
- 3) For the **Presentation** you must research a sight selected and present to the class useful and interesting background information for the first 15-minutes following arrival at said location (CLO 2).
- 4) Each student is tasked to keep a **Field Journal** logging their daily explorations and encounters during each

trip (CLO 1). Notes may be in any format, but all writing must be clear and succinct to be worthy of instructor review.

- 5) During our last evening together in Yosemite each student will share his or her most memorable takeaway from the course during a **Campfire Reflection** session (CLO2).

Final Examination

The final exam is a single essay prompt. You must clearly support and defend in a written essay how a place name such as Yosemite [translation “they are killers’] or Death Valley exemplifies the complexities of the human-environment tradition in geography (CLO 3).

Grading Information

	Points Possible
Group Participation	600 (200-each)
Presentation	40
Digital Archive	60 (20-each)
Field Journal	100
Campfire Reflection	40
Final Exam Essay	60
TOTAL	1,000

SCALE:

A+ = ≥98%	A = 94-97%	A- = 90-93%
B+ = 87-89%	B = 84-86%	B- = 80-83%
C+ = 77-79%	C = 74-76%	C- = 70-73%
D+ = 67-69%	D = 60-66%	D- = 51-59%
		F = ≤50%

All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. In keeping with this policy, and to making grading responsive. All assignments are due as stated on the Course Schedule and Canvas. **Late work is not accepted, and if you miss the trip then you fail because field experience cannot be made up.** If you have questions about your final grade please make an appointment to see me.

[Field] Classroom Protocol

- Attendance is mandatory.
- On-time arrival to all listed itinerary items is mandatory.
- Cell phone reception may be poor. During vehicular transportation and in allotted free time blocks you may use your electronic devices as much as you wish. Use during activities and lectures means they will be confiscated.
- Understand your camp responsibilities and always err on the side of safety.
- All activities in this field course are undertaken at your own risk. Should you have concerns please see the instructor to identify alternatives.
- Background materials must be reviewed prior to your field experience for successful participation in discussions and lectures.
- You might find environmental conditions unpleasant and/or tiring. Keep in mind that you may become more

easily frustrated or less agreeable to other perspectives in these settings, but respect and adult behavior are still mandatory.

- Please keep any and all complaints to yourself. Remember, you could be spending 45 course hours watching PowerPoint lectures of National Parks instead.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

29954 / GEOG165 - National Parks, Spring Break Session, 2017 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice so please check Canvas for latest course information. If we are in the field then listen for instructor announcement.

Date	Itineraries, Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
<p>2/21 (Tuesday) 4:30-5:30 pm</p>	<p>MANDATORY PREP MEETING in WSQ105</p> <p>Organizational meeting to go over all travel details, sign waivers and answer questions.</p>
<p>2/22-3/25</p>	<p><u>Readings</u></p> <p><u>Death Valley:</u> Note: The Death Valley list is purposely short list so that students research materials for their Presentation assignment. U.S. National Park Service. Official Death Valley Map U.S. National Park Service. Record Temperatures</p> <p><u>Channel Islands:</u> Midael. "Diving California's Channel Island National Park" Schoenheer, Allan A. 1992. <i>A Natural History of California</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Excerpt on Canvas in 'Files') U.S. National Park Service. Official Channel Islands National Park Map U.S. National Park Service. Channel Islands National Park Timeline U.S. National Park Service. "Restoring Balance: Santa Cruz Island"</p> <p><u>Yosemite:</u> Duane, Daniel. 2015. "The armed theft of John Muir's Yosemite" <i>Los Angeles Times</i> Burns, Ken. 2009. "John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt in Yosemite" <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea</i> Burns, Ken. 2009. "Yosemite's Buffalo Soldiers" <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea</i> GoogleEarth Trek. 2015. Climbing El Capitan Guerra, Stephanie. 2011. Piecing together the Past: Chinese Immigrants in Yosemite. <i>Yosemite Science: Innovations in Research & Resource Management</i>, 1(1) 14-16. Muir, John. 1911. <i>My First Summer in the Sierra</i>. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. NBC News. May 5, 2015. California Drought: Century-Old Fight Over Hetch Hetchy Simmers On. Stock, Greg. 2011. High-resolution tools for Understanding Geologic Processes. <i>Yosemite Science: Innovations in Research & Resource Management</i>, 1(1) 4-5. U.S. National Park Service, Inventory & Monitoring. Seeking clarity: Tracking change in mountain lakes. U.S. National Park Service, Yosemite Map U.S. National Park Service, Yosemite Webcams U.S. National Park Service, Yosemite, Study the Scientist: Fire Archeologist U.S. National Park Service, Yosemite, Study the Scientist: Historical Architect</p>

Date	Itineraries, Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3/25/17 Saturday Check-in front of SJSU Univ. Police Dept. @ 4:30 am	WILDFLOWERS: DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK <i>Experience: Car-Camping, Furnace Creek Campground Tent Sites 113-114</i> 4:30 am Depart SJSU in transportation provided 4:00 am – 4:00pm Breakfast and lunch (\$) on the road 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Mosaic Canyon Trail { Dominic } 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Set up tent sites; limit 8 per site <i>Sunset 7:04 pm</i> 7:15 pm – 7:45 pm Tapas & Drinks 7:45 pm – 8:45 pm Dinner & Dessert 8:45 pm+ Free time
3/26 Sunday	Death Valley Nat'l Park, Furnace Creek Campground Tent Sites 113-114 <i>Sunrise @ 6:42 am</i> 7:00 am – 8:00 am Continental breakfast 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Furnace Creek Visitors Center Devil's Golf Course { Mungalia } Badwater Pond & Salt Flats { Hager } Picnic Lunch Salt Creek Interpretive Trail { Cuevas } 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm Early Dinner @ Camp 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm Mesquite Flat Dunes Landscape Photo Lesson <i>Sunset 7:05pm</i> 8:30 pm+ Dessert & Free time
3/27 Monday	Death Valley Nat'l Park, Furnace Creek Campground Tent Sites 113-114 <i>Sunrise @ 6:40 am</i> 6:00 am – 8:30 am Zabriskie Pointe { Miran } Golden Eagle Canyon { Knight } 9:00 am – 10:30 am Brunch @ Camp 10:30 am – 5:30 pm Ubehebe Crater { Laura } The Racetrack { Rebecca } <i>Sunset @ 7:06 pm</i> 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm Tapas & Drinks 7:15 pm – 8:30 pm Dinner & Dessert 8:30 pm+ Free time/Stargazing <i>New Moon</i>
3/28 Tues Travel Day	Ventura California, Motel 6 Ventura Beach (2145 E. Harbor Blvd) – 4 rooms <i>Sunrise @ 6:39 am</i> 6:45 am – 7:30 am Continental Breakfast & Pack up Camp 7:30 am Depart Death Valley Mid-morning snack on the Road (\$) 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm La Super-Rica Taqueria, Santa Barbara 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Channel Islands Visitors Center, Ventura 5:30 pm Hotel check-in Dinner (\$) on your own and free time

Date	Itineraries, Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
<p>3/29 Wednesday</p>	<p>WHALES: CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK <i>Experience: Hike-in Camping (Gear Weight Restrictions 45lb)</i> Santa Cruz Island, Scorpion Campground Group Site E <i>Sunrise @ 6:37 am</i> 6:30 am – 7:30 am Pack up and breakfast on your own (\$) 8:00 am Check in Island Packer Cruises [1691 Spinnaker Drive] 9:00 am – 12:30 pm Ferry to Santa Cruz Island / Whale Watching Hike in to Scorpion Ranch campsite Camp setup + lunch {Island foxes by Beatriz} 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Beach time, Snorkel (\$), Kayak, Paddle Board (\$), Surf (\$) <i>Low Tide @ 2:00 pm</i> 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm Cavern Point Sunset Hike - Easy to Moderate {Sea cliff Formations by Eric} <i>Sunset @ 7:07 pm</i> 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm Tapas & Drinks / Loving the Ugliers by Dr. Davis 7:15 pm – 8:30 pm Sit Down Dinner & Dessert 8:30 pm+ Free time/Stargazing</p>
<p>3/30 Thursday</p>	<p>Channel Islands Nat'l Park, Santa Cruz Island, Campground Group Site E <i>Sunrise @ 6:36 am</i> 7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Smuggler's Cove Hike - Moderate to Strenuous {Chaparral Biome Flora by Tiffany} 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch at beach 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Tide Pools with Dr. Davis <i>Sunset @ 7:08 pm</i> 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm Tapas & Drinks 7:15 pm – 8:30 pm Dinner & Dessert 8:30 pm+ Free time / Stargazing</p>
<p>3/31 Fri Travel Day</p>	<p>Fresno California, Red Roof Inn (4141 Blackstone Ave) – 4 rooms <i>Sunrise @ 6:34 am</i> 6:30 am – 9:30 am Old Oil Well Hike - Moderate to Strenuous {Oil Exploration along the Pacific Coast by Devin} 9:30 am – 10:30 am Continental Breakfast 10:30am - 1:00 pm Free time & Pack up 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Late Lunch 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Hike camp gear to ferry landing 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm Ferry back to Ventura / Whale Watching 5:30 pm Depart for Fresno Dinner (\$) on the road 9:30 pm Hotel check-in & Free time</p>

Date	Itineraries, Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4/1 Saturday	<p>WATERFALLS: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK <i>Experience: Lower Pines Tent Sites 24, 26, and 38</i></p> <p>6:00 am – 7:00 am Pack up and breakfast on your own (\$) 7:00 am Depart Fresno 10:00 am – 11:00 Sightsee El Capitan {Geomorphology by Gabi} 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Yosemite Visitors Center & Lunch on Your Own (\$) 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm Lower Yosemite Falls Hike - Easy to Moderate {Kerry} or 12:30 pm – 6:00 pm Top of Nevada Falls Hike - Moderate to Strenuous {Jay} 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm Tapas & Drinks / Hetch Hetchy Discussion {Stephen} <i>Sunset @ 7:10 pm</i> 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Sit Down Dinner & Dessert 8:30 pm+ Free time / Stargazing</p>
4/2 Sunday Return to SJSU approx. 9:00 pm	<p>Yosemite Valley Nat'l Park <i>Sunrise @ 6:32 am</i></p> <p>6:15 am – 9:00 am Mirror Lake Sunrise Hike - Easy 9:00 am – 11:00 am Breakfast & pack up 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Free Time, Fishing or Bicycling (\$), Eat lunch (\$) on own 3:00 Depart from El Capitan for SJSU [No meal stops]</p>
4/2	Journal Due – Hand in at end of trip
4/5 (Online)	Photos Due – Instagram
4/9 (Online)	Final Exam Essay – Submit on Canvas

For logistical purposes this class has been divided into **Participation Groups**. A leader has been assigned based on my knowledge of those students having some expertise. If you have questions or need assistance with campsite setup or your gear, please ask the group lead first.

Each group will be responsible for specific meal preparations and clean up as outlined in the following pages. This is to provide you information upfront in case ingredients do not meet with your dietary preferences or restrictions. Whether or not you eat the meal provided you must still participate in assigned duties. All ingredients will be pre-portioned so this is really more meal assembly, and light clean up to share responsibilities for camping with large groups. Meals not assigned to a group are tasked to the instructor.

MEALS

Meals are included with the student tuition unless noted by (\$). This is an active course so good quality, clean ingredients will be used (olive or coconut oil), organic, GMO and natural foods in meals provided. If these are unsuitable with any dietary restrictions or preferences you may have then you are welcome to bring your own meals, but are still required to pay the full tuition and participate in the group preparation responsibilities.

Anyone not preparing a meal is responsible for clean up!

Group 1

Leader: Chris Munguia, Mathew Knight, Beatriz San Juan, Eric Wieda, Tiffany Martinez

Group 2

Leader: Dominic Hugyik, Rebecca Carmick, Gabriela Crowley, Kaylan Hager

Group 3

Leader: Justine Cuevas, Laura Crownover, Patrick Miran, Devin Pate, Stephen Lee, Jr.