

COURSE SYLLABUS

TITLE: Central Utah's Parks

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 2

COURSE NUMBER: Geol 299 E01

INSTRUCTOR: Terry F. Rees, Ph.D.

MEETING DATES: July 21 - 26, 2008

MEETING TIMES: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, breaks for lunch

MEETING LOCATIONS: This is a field course. Initial lecture will be at the Fernley Campus, Western Nevada College (building and room to be determined). Surface travel will be by van or motor coach to the San Rafael Swell, Arches National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Capitol Reef National Park, with field stops and lectures enroute. Because of the field nature of the course, participants must attend the initial lecture and stay with the field trip throughout the course.

WHO MAY ATTEND THIS COURSE: Course is open to all Western Nevada College students.

IDENTIFY COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: This is a field course that features moderate hikes in rugged terrain. Participants must be in good health and have appropriate sturdy shoes and clothing. A history or science background would be helpful, but not necessary. Students must register and pay for the educational tour through Pheasant Services at www.pheasantervices.com, in addition to registering for the class through Western Nevada College.

GOALS FOR THE COURSE: This course is designed to provide both a geologic and a historical perspective of the parks in Central Utah. Students will become familiar with the geology of the area and how that geology affects the historical development of Utah.

INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT: This course includes lectures about principles and concepts, coupled with field experiences that demonstrate material presented in the lectures. Local experts will join the participants for discussions.

TEXTBOOK/PRINTED MATERIAL/RESOURCES: A set of handouts developed by the course instructor.

ABSENCE POLICY: Participants must attend all class activities to receive credit.

DAILY TOPIC OUTLINE: Attached.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be required to submit a term paper covering any topic discussed during the course. Alternatively, students who are teachers wishing re-certification credits will be required to develop a 5-day thematic unit, appropriate to the age they teach, utilizing the concepts presented during the class. The term paper/thematic unit is due August 1, 2008.

GRADING PROCEDURE: Course grade will be based on class participation (50%) and evaluation of the term paper/thematic unit (50%).

COURSE OUTLINE

Central Utah's Parks

Course Number:

Monday, July 21, 2008

- 7:00 – 7:30 AM Registration and sign-in.
- 7:30 – 8:00 AM Overview of field course.
- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to Salina, Utah.
- 6:00 PM Check into motel in Salina. Lecture enroute on the genesis of the Great Basin, the Toiyabe and Wasatch Orogenies, and the Colorado Plateau. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to Capitol Reef National Park. Lecture by Park personnel will present a historical overview and discuss the geology of Waterpocket Fold and how the monocline affects water and biologic resources in the area. Class participants will take a short guided hike before re-boarding the van/motor coach for a scenic drive through the Park. Box lunch.
- 6:00 PM Check into motel in Green River. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to Dead Horse Point State Park and Canyonlands National Park. Park personnel will present an orientation lecture covering the geologic and human history of the Park. After the orientation, students will visit Grand View Point and hike to Upheaval Dome (approximately 1-mile round trip) and Mesa Arch (1/2-mile loop trail). Box lunch.
- 6:00 PM Check into motel in Moab (2 nights). Dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday, July 24, 2008

- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to the Needles section of Canyonlands National Park. Stops will include Newspaper Rock, views of Big Spring Canyon, and Elephant Hill. Students will be able to explore the Pot Hole Trail and visit Chesler Park for a closer view of the Needles. Box lunch. Board van/motor coach to Arches National Park. Park personnel will provide a lecture on the geologic history of the Park and on how the arches form. After the lecture, students will board the van/motor coach for a scenic drive through the Park including stops at Delicate Arch overlook and Double Arch. Return to Moab.
- 6:00 PM Dinner at a local restaurant

Friday, July 25, 2008

- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to Arches National Park. The day will feature hikes to Landscape Arch and Park Avenue. Box lunch.
- 2:00 PM Board van/motor coach to Salina. Lecture on sedimentary rock and what causes salt domes. Discussion of famous salt domes (e.g. Tea Pot Dome) and how these features have been exploited by humans since the earliest periods of our history. The road will cross the San Rafael Swell geologic area, where several stops will allow the students to observe the surface expression of a deeply-submerged batholith.
- 6:00 PM Check into motel in Salina. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Saturday, July 26, 2008

- 8:00 AM Board van/motor coach to return to Fernley
- 8:00 PM Return to Fernley Campus, Western Nevada College