

GEOG 470 Geography Explorations (Death Valley National Park)

Wintermester 2019

Number of Credits

2

Instructor

Chris Ryan, christopherr@unr.edu

Catalog Description

Intensive field study at various locations. Physical geography, settlement patterns, cultural landscapes and environmental issues. Maximum of 8 credits.

Required Textbooks/Materials

There is no text required for the course. All required readings will be distributed by the instructor. Readings will be used to emphasize material covered in the field and will assist students in completing required assignments. Students need to supply their own journals and cameras in order to complete assignments.

All students are responsible for their own tent, sleeping bag, and food; campsites, cooking supplies, and firewood will all be provided by the instructor. We will be camping at Furnace Creek inside the Park. The campsite has flushing toilets, running water; showers are close by. A notebook and camera are required for the class as you will be making observations and writing journal entries of locations visited and discussed. The weather in Death Valley is quite pleasant this time of year. Temps can be in the 60s-70s during the day and cool off at night—be sure to have a warm jacket; please have comfortable walking shoes as we do a fair amount.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- examine and explain the physical geography, settlement patterns, cultural landscapes and environmental issues of the topic area;
- describe the spatial distribution and relations of the topic area; and
- evaluate the human environment interaction of the topic area.

Course Details

This course is designed to introduce students to the physical and cultural geography of Death Valley National Park. Death Valley has some of the most diverse geology and climate in North America. Students will have the opportunity, first hand, to experience these qualities by visiting, discussing, and observing sites within and outside of the Park.

All students are required to complete all required readings before the field portion of the course. While in the field, all students will maintain a journal, and complete the repeat photography assignments. Journals will be used to document observations of sites visited, studied, and discussed. Students will also use the journals to document evidence of a "sense of place."

Students registered in the course must meet all of the following requirements in order to receive credit:

- **attend all scheduled meetings;**
- **complete all required readings;**
- **attend all field experiences; and**
- **complete and submit all required assignments.**

Failure to complete all of the above stated requirements will result in a final grade of 'U.'

The course is strictly an S/U grade; no letter grades are available. In order to receive an "S" for a final grade all requirements (as stated above) must be met. Any of the requirements not met will result in a "U" as a final grade.