

## GEOG 120: Geography Field Studies – Death Valley

**Instructor:** Maureen Smith

**Office:** BGS 350

**Office Hours:** Tues. 8-9am by appointment only & Wed. 3 – 4pm

Fall 2010

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Saddleback College

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One of the best ways to learn about geographical topics and regions is to experience and observe them first-hand. This field trip will spend time at Death Valley National Park, one of the world's most famous deserts.

There are 2 on-campus meetings in BGS , 6:00 – 8:00pm

- + Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup> – Logistics, preparation, paper work; overview of Geology & Environment of Death Valley.
- + Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> – Field trip presentation and field trip report

The field trip includes the following stops/hikes (subject to change):

### + Death Valley National Park

Zambriski Point	Scotty's Castle
Dante's View	Devil's Golf Course
Golden Canyon	Artist's Drive
Badwater	Ubehebe Crater
Ventifact Ridge	Sand Dunes
Visitor's Center	Mosaic Canyon
Devil's Cornfield	Harmony Borax Works

### + Trona Pinnacles

### Grading Rationale:

Field Trip Report (typed, with at least one photo per stop)	60 points
Participation & Effort during Field Trip	20 points
<u>Brief Presentation on Nov. 10 (or during field trip)</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total	100 points

### Comments about grading

- Guidelines for the field trip report are on page 5. **It is not possible to pass if you don't turn in a report.**
- Presentation on November should be brief (5 minutes max): suggestions include:
  - Slide show using PowerPoint, focusing on one particular area, topic, or theme of the field trip.
  - Letter to someone or something sharing your thoughts or ideas about something you saw or learned.
  - Brief discussion about a field trip topic you did further research on (in your own words; cite sources)
  - Poem (set of 3 if they are short)

- Song or musical performance related to a field trip topic
- Brief fictional short story inspired by the trip.
- Other creative entry?

### **Final Point/Grade Breakdown**

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

65 – 79 = C

55 – 64 = D

0 – 54 = F

### **Death Valley Field Trip: October 22 – 24, 2010**

**NOTE – below is a tentative itinerary, but the sequence might be different depending on weather, trail conditions, and time. It might not be possible to go to all of the following.**

#### **Friday October 22, 2010**

Meet at Saddleback College parking lot (Lot # 1 ) at 7:00am

Drive to Death Valley (approximately 5.5 hours; gas, bathroom, and lunch stop)

**Dante’s View** – classic view of Death Valley from 5600’ viewpoint (be ready for cold temps)

**Badwater** – 1 mile flat walk onto salt flats

**Devil’s Golf Course** – be sure to wear good shoes

**Mushroom Rock** – quick stop

Arrive at Furnace Creek – set up camp (set up your own tent and help setting up the kitchen and fire pit)

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#### **Saturday October 23, 2010**

Breakfast and pack lunch for later

Leave camp by 8am for a full day in Death Valley National Park

**Alluvial Fan viewpoint**

**Ubehebe Crater** – Volcanic crater; 1+ mile hike around the edge of the crater

**Scotty’s Castle** – Guided tour inside 1920s mansion (lunch after tour on the grounds of the castle)

**Devil’s Cornfield**

**Sand Dunes** – 1+ mile hike, but very difficult due to walking in deep sand

**Harmony Borax Works**

**Visitor Center** – slide show and exhibits

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#### **Sunday October 24, 2010**

Breakfast and pack lunch for later

Breakdown camp including kitchen and leave by 8:30am

**Zabriskie Point & Golden Canyon hike** – 3 mile walk, mostly downhill

**Artist’s Drive/Artist’s Palette**

Leave Death Valley

**Trona Pinnacles** – lunch stop (no facilities)

Drive back to Saddleback College

Arrive at Saddleback College around 5pm

### **Drop-off/Pickup Procedures and Tips**

We will be departing and returning to Saddleback College parking lot # 1. PLEASE have someone drop you and your gear off on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00am. Have someone pick you up in the same place on the evening of Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>. Tell your ride that you will call them Sunday afternoon to confirm time of pick-up (probably around 5pm).

### **FAQs for Death Valley field trip**

#### **Weather**

Temperatures will probably be around 50 – 70<sup>o</sup>F in the daytime

Nighttime temperatures will be a bit cold, around 40 – 45<sup>o</sup>F

Rain is possible but it probably wouldn't be much; prepare for wind

#### **Transportation**

Saddleback College pays for the vans and gas

We will have 3 twelve passenger vans and 1 cargo van

Students are NOT allowed to drive their own vehicles

#### **Restrooms**

Stops will occur every 2-3 hours while driving and during field trip activities; usually flush toilets but a few will be pit toilets

#### **Showers**

Available near the campground, but you might have to pay \$3 to use the shower

#### **Electricity**

Cell phones will be out of range much of the time

You might be able to recharge electronics in the campground restroom, but not totally secure since all other campers use it also

#### **Cooking & Food**

Each student's \$50 fee covers food, camping fees, and entries. The meals provided are dinner on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> through lunch on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>. On day #1, you must bring a sack breakfast and lunch. Typically we will have simple, uncooked breakfasts and lunches, and larger, cooked dinners. Everyone will take turns helping at mealtime. If you don't help prepare the dinner, you will help clean up. The tentative plan:

Breakfast – cereal, oatmeal, muffins, bagels, juice, coffee/tea

Lunch – Sandwiches with lunch meat, fruit, chips, cookies

Dinner – hot dogs/burgers/beans/corn/potato salad

Green salad/soup/spaghetti/chicken/rice/stir-fry veggies

Mexican food (Tacos or burritos and beans)

**Inconveniences to prepare for (or avoid)**

Long hours in van – be patient! It's a small price to pay to get to nice places

Waiting for others before we can go – everyone be on time!

Getting up early – don't stay up too late

Annoying classmates – be polite and respectful to one another; no foul language; quiet hours are 10pm – 7am

Forgetting something at home – pack a couple of days in advance and double check;

Probably not possible to stop and buy something you forgot.

Camping in cold weather – bring a good sleeping bag, pad, and warm clothes

Hiking up to 4 miles a day – bring good running/hiking shoes that are already broken in!

Maybe not having a shower every night because it's too late or your too tired

Running out of battery power for your camera or flashlight

Check before and/or bring fresh or extra batteries

Hearing music you don't like – bring an Ipod with headphones if you want

Few chances to buy snacks – bring snacks from home

Camp food will be good and filling, but it might not be as good as your mom's home cooking

**Dangers (worst-case scenarios)**

Car accident, so wear seat belts

Twisting an ankle

Someone stealing something out of your tent while we're away from camp (unlikely, but keep valuables with you)

Getting lost from the group (don't go off on your own without telling Smith)

**What to Bring?**

Space is limited; DO NOT OVERPACK!

Most of your gear will be stored away and inaccessible during the day, so pack your small backpack carefully each morning

**Packing**

- One main duffel bag or backpack which will be stored deep in the cargo van on Days 1 & 3, inaccessible until nighttime
- One small backpack which should always be with you, with camera, notebook, water, lightweight jacket/windbreaker, snacks, flashlight, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen/chopstick, wallet....

**Clothes**

- Long pants and maybe shorts (temperature can be anywhere from 50 – 80F during the day)
  - o Consider bringing zip off pants that convert to shorts.
- Hat and sunglasses
- Warm clothes (jacket, gloves, sweatshirt) for chilly nights and mornings (could be 35 – 40F at night)
- Swimming suit; there is a warm swimming pool close to the campground
- Comfortable walking shoes (running shoes or light weight hiking boots)
- Flip-flops (rubber sandals) for the showers

### Personal Items

- Soap, toothbrush, prescription medication.....bring small containers
- Chapstick & Sunscreen
- Small bath towel (for showers or pool) & small towel (for drying hands and face)

### Eating Utensils

- Cereal/soup bowl; plate, spoon, fork, knife
- Mug with a handle for hot and cold drinks
- Any snacks you cannot do without; few opportunities to buy snacks on the field trip

### Camping Equipment

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow & sleeping pad (makes a huge difference)
- Small backpack for short hikes
- Flashlight; check the batteries; headlamp is the BEST!
- Beach or camp chair

### Photo Equipment

- Camera (make sure it works and you know how to use it!)
- Film or memory cards (many students will take over 100 photos so bring sufficient film or card)

### Other Necessities

- A clipboard, pen, pencil, highlighter
- \$\$\$\$ for the drive to and from Death Valley, D.V. and Scotty's Castle visitors center, & quarters for showers.
- A positive attitude, patience, and a sense of humor (important!)

### Optional Items

- Metal hanger for roasting marshmallows
- Maps: California, San Bernardino County, and Death Valley (free at AAA for members)
- Binoculars
- Addresses of anyone you want to send post cards to (have stamps already!)

### Final Notes:

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- Drugs and alcohol – Using either is **absolutely prohibited** on the field trip
- Contact me immediately if you have to cancel!
- If you are providing a tent or gear for a classmate, call them immediately if you cancel! (get their phone number on the Pre-Trip meeting)
- By attending, you have agreed to be considerate towards the others in the group – please be a team player. For the benefits of everyone, we must temporarily forfeit some of the personal freedoms we enjoy while travelling on our own.

Death Valley Field Trip  
Grading Rational

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Due – November 10, 2010**

**Write – Up** – Your final write-up will consist of answers to all of the questions listed in the booklet. Incorporate those questions and answer into paragraphs; don't just list the answer in single words or bullet points. DO NOT SIMPLY WRITE A TRAVELLOGUE OF THE FIELD TRIP. You must write what you learned, observed, and thought. It MUST be typed.

**Concluding Essay** – Your write-up must include a 1-3 page concluding essay. You should write about what you liked most about the field trip; what were your 3 favorite places and why? What was especially memorable? What didn't you like about the field trip or the places we visited? What are the most interesting things you learned? Has your attitude changed? The essay should be your personal reaction to the trip.

**Photos** – You must include at least one photo of each stop; glued, mounted, or printed above or below your typed description of the particular stop. You can use digital photos and can compile them in a PowerPoint presentation (turded in on a CD), or you can insert digital photos into a MS Word document and can turn that in on a disc. If you turn in a disc, try to reduce the resolution (compress) the photos sothat the file size is not too large. Also, please turn in a printout (black and white or color) even if you turn in a disc. For PowerPoint, you can print 6 slides per page. If you do not turn in a CD, you MUST print your project in color.

**Grading Rationale** – You will be graded on accuracy, completeness, and personal insights in your writing.

- 1) Dante's View ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Badwater ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Devil's Golf Course ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Mushroom Rock ( 2 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Alluvial Fan viewpoint ( 2 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Ubehebe Crater (3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Scotty's Castle ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Devil's Cornfield ( 2 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Sand Dunes ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Harmony Borax Works ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Visitors Center ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) Zabriskie Point ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

13) Golden Canyon ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

14) Artist's Drive/Palatte ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

15) Ventifact Ridge (3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

16) Trona Pinnacles ( 3 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding Essay ( 10 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of Photos ( 5 points) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Late Penalty ( - 10 points if turned in after November 10) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Point Total..... \_\_\_\_\_/60**

## **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE** – Field trip game for night 1 or 2

This is a fun campfire game which allows the people in the group to get to know each other better. You must write 2 true things about yourself and 1 lie. Think of some funny, interesting, embarrassing, or proud experiences that you have had and try to be creative. Here are some examples of what previous students have written (all true!):

- "I have eaten French-fried ants"
- "I have been in jail 4 times"
- "I was interviewed on Brazilian television"
- "I saw my friend get shot"
- "I was born in an elevator"
- "I am 3 months pregnant"
- "I spent 2 years in maximum security prison" (he was actually an employee there)
- "I have 14 brothers and sisters in my family"
- "I once was carjacked"
- "I go to church every Sunday (unless I am camping)"
- "I have lived in 7 different states"
- "Somebody cut my eyeballs with a knife" (Radial keratotomy surgery by a doctor)
- "I used to be a professional singer"
- "I have 12 body piercings"
- "I died when I was a baby, but doctors revived me"
- "One of my eyes is fake"
- "I lived in a nudist colony"

You don't have to write your name on this. M. Smith will read these at the campfire, and everyone will try and guess who wrote what. Then we'll try to guess which statement is the lie. You might be asked to explain or elaborate a little bit, all in good fun!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FIELD TRIP WAIVER

Students Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that South Orange County Community College District and Maureen K. Smith are in no way responsible, nor does South Orange County Community College District or Maureen K. Smith assume liability for any injuries or losses resulting from the transportation and activities involved during the field trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Students Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Primary Emergency Contact (please print name)

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Home phone #

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Cell phone #

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Secondary Emergency Contact (please print name)

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Home phone #

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Cell phone #

Please provide Health Insurance information:

Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance #: \_\_\_\_\_