

Regional Field Studies:
Oceanography of the Southern California Bight
May 27-30, 2008

Course Detail Sheet

Who May Come?

Only persons registered in OCN195, GEOG195, or ES 195 may participate in this course.

General Trip Logistics

This trip will include several stops each day. The fact that we will be traveling through highly urbanized areas presents several logistical challenges. To deal with these:

- Students are expected to carpool with a minimum of 2 students per car. Besides sharing gas costs, there are several places with small entrance fees and limited parking. I will mail all participants a list of phone numbers of all enrolled students. Use this list to arrange rides.
- Each car must have a 14-channel 2-way radio to aid in communication. I do have several that I can lend out. Playing music in the car is OK between stops, but make sure you can hear radio transmissions for directions.
- Each car should have a good set of maps. Detailed directions with mileages to field trip stops will be provided. Thomas Guide page numbers are also included; if you happen to have them, they can be handy. Otherwise, obtain maps similar to
 - AAA California Regional Series provide the big picture with major streets and freeways: San Diego, Los Angeles & Orange Counties, Ventura County, Central Coast Region
 - AAA City Series maps provide more street detail and may be very helpful: Los Angeles Central & Western Area, Los Angeles Southern Area, Ventura County Cities, and Santa Barbara County Cities
- Plan your trip home. We will end the trip near Lompoc in the late afternoon. The drive home is 250 miles and will take between 4 and 6 hours. You may want to camp in the area or find a hotel that night and spend the next day returning home.

Driving

All drivers must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Please be very careful while driving. Be sure to obey all traffic regulations. Pay attention to the car in front of you. Have your passenger be the navigator to keep track of directions and maintain radio contacts. Be sure you do not block the road when we stop. **Never pass the instructor** (lead vehicle) unless specifically told to do so.

Gas

Gas is readily available; however no special stops for gas will take place during the day. Students should have a full tank of gas at the beginning of each day.

Vehicles

Most of the trip is on paved streets. We may travel short distances on well-maintained unpaved roads. Do make sure that your vehicle is in good mechanical condition with a good spare tire. If your vehicle breaks down, I will make sure that you are safe and that help is on the way. Otherwise, the field trip will continue.

Food

Students are responsible for their own meals. Although we will be in urban areas with ready access to restaurants, you should plan to have food available to make breakfast and lunch. You can take advantage of local restaurants for dinner. There will be ready access to ice and groceries at the end of each day, so you don't have to pack for the full trip. One special meal that you need to plan for is lunch on Thursday May 29. We will be on East Anacapa Island at lunch time; you must bring your own food and pack out your trash. You will also want to plan to bring snacks for the boat trip.

Accommodations

Unless you make your own arrangements for hotels, the group will be camping. I have included information on each night to help you with your planning.

- **Tuesday May 27**—We will spend the night in Dana Point. I have made arrangements for us to “camp” at the Ocean Institute located at Dana Point harbor. They have a beautiful facility in which they normally house “campers” from various elementary schools. We will have access to a large heated floor on which we can place camp mattresses (they do have some mats). They have restrooms and showers. If sleeping on a large floor with little personal space or privacy is a bit much for you, you can make your own arrangements for the night at a local hotel or campground. Convenient hotels are the Holiday Inn Express and the Marina Inn. Local camping is just south of Dana Point Harbor at Doheny State Beach. For meals that night, I recommend taking advantage of the local restaurants.
- **Wednesday May 28**—We will spend the night between Malibu and Oxnard. I have made reservations at Leo Carrillo State Park. The campground is very nice with a canopy of sycamore trees. There are reasonably nice bathrooms and showers. Camp sites are a short walk to the beach. I will ask for a “donation” of \$4 to \$5 per camper, depending on the number of students. I have 3 sites reserved which can accommodate up to 8 people and 3 vehicles per site. I imagine this could make things a bit crowded, so if you want to go ahead and reserve your own spot, please do. You can reserve your own spot through Reserve America; for details on making reservations, go to www.parks.ca.gov. For those wanting a hotel, Oxnard would be the best location.
- **Thursday, May 29**—We will spend the night at Carpinteria State Beach. This is a beautiful (and very popular) camp ground. I have made reservations for a group camp site. Parking at the site is limited to 6 cars, but a lot is nearby. I will ask for a “donation” of \$4 to \$5 per camper, depending on the number of students. For the non-campers, there are hotels in the area. Downtown Carpinteria is close by for those who want to eat out.

Please let me know if you plan to camp with the group, or if you will be staying in a hotel.

Weather

In Southern California, we talk about “May-gray” and “June-gloom” referring to the coastal marine layer that hangs at the coast this time of year. Therefore, you should be prepared for damp, drizzle, and cool weather. Temperatures should range between 70°F for a daytime high and 55°F for a night-time low. If we get sun and clear skies it will warm up. Bring layers of clothes and a jacket. The boat trip out to East Anacapa Island can be cool and breezy even on a sunny day.

Hiking & Walking

We will be doing a lot of short hikes over sand and uneven terrain; some beach access requires climbing stairs. None of the hikes are difficult, but have good walking shoes or light hiking boots. You may want shoes that you don't mind getting wet.

Boat Trip to East Anacapa Island

On Thursday, May 29 we will check in to Island Packers (boat service for National Park Service) at Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard at 8:45 a.m. The boat will leave at 9:30 a.m. The 12-mile trip will take approximately an hour. We will spend much of the day exploring the island. We will also take part in the "Underwater Video Program" which is the National Park's program to explore the kelp forest without getting wet (check out <http://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/underwater-video-program.htm>) for details. We will board return to Channel Islands Harbor at 4:30 p.m.

Although the boat does have snacks that you can purchase, you must bring your lunch. There are no food services on the island. You will also have to pack out any of your trash.

Special Note: The landing on the island is quite somewhat challenging. The boat will pull up to a ladder; you will need to climb the ladder onto a platform. Island Packers is very adept at helping people with this maneuver, but you should know what is waiting for you.

Expenses

Besides gas and food, there will be some minor expenses. There are charges for parking at some of the stops. You should bring some quarters and small bills (\$1's and \$5's) to deal with these. If you take advantage of the two State Park campsites I have arranged, I will be asking for reimbursement (\$4 to \$5 per person/per night). Although I am working on gaining fee-waivers for State Parks, there may be some entrance fees. The total expenses should not exceed \$30 per person.

Potential Hazards

Please be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be especially careful about the following:

- Falling—many beaches are at the bottom of cliffs that we will need to navigate down steep paths or stairs. Cliff edges are also unstable. Be careful of your footing and stay on trails.
- Poison oak—this will probably only be an issue in a few areas.
- Snakes—as with poison oak, this would be a rare encounter on this trip, but be careful.

Other items to make the trip run smoothly:

- Listen carefully to all directions.
- Be ready to leave camp at designated times.
- Do not play stereo systems at stops or in camp.
- Do not use iPods or cell phones during stops.
- DO NOT BRING ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR FIREARMS.

What to Bring (besides basic camping stuff)

- Money for various expenses
- 3-ring binder (2") to put handout/brochures
- Field note-book
- Mechanical pencils
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Hat & Sunscreen
- Dramamine or other motion-sickness prevention medication if needed
- Beach shoes

If you have any questions, call me, Patty Deen, at (760) 744-1150 x2519 or send an e-mail to pdeen@palomar.edu.