

Anthropology 190/Geology 190 International Field Studies of the Hawaiian Islands Course Syllabus



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Introduction:

Geology 190/Anthropology 190 is a two-week long summer field studies program that takes students to the important geological and anthropological localities found in the western United States and around the world. We camp at spectacular parks and monuments, and hike to some of the most important sites in the history of geological studies which may also show evidence of human cultural use. The Hawaiian Islands are one of the most unique environments in the world, both geologically and in terms of humanity. Isolated by thousands of miles of open sea, the islands have developed a distinctive culture and history. The volcanic islands originated on a geologic hot spot, which means that each island is of a different age and degree of growth and erosion. The natural ecosystems developed from accidental arrivals of plant and animal species, and thus the islands have the largest number of endemic species in the United States.

Course Student Learning Objectives for Anthropology 190

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

1. Employ cultural relativism when interacting with people from other cultures;
2. Examine and analyze field evidence regarding the cultural record of past humans; and
3. Interpret culture change through observation of the extant archaeological record (gained through field activities) and environmental changes over time.
4. Identify common artifacts, ecofacts, and features in archaeological sites.
5. Assess the effects of culture contact on indigenous peoples.

Required Student Learning Outcomes for Geology 190

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify the igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks found in selected sites of geological significance in international and overseas localities.
- b. Describe the plate tectonic interactions that resulted in the landscapes exposed in the field trip localities.
- c. Identify the principle tectonic and erosional processes, and recognize the geologic structures present in the regions visited by the trip participants.
- d. Model the geologic history of the region under study by observing and interpreting selected outcrops.
- e. Assess the effects and consequences of human interactions with the region under study.

Course Orientation:

We will hold at least one orientation meeting prior to the beginning of class. You will need to attend ONE of these meetings as part of your course content. We will discuss important aspects of the course (assignments, pre-trip preparation), and the trip itself. At the first meeting you may choose the topic of your presentation so that you can begin doing research immediately.

Course Requirements:

This is a combination of Geology 190 (3 units) and Anthropology (3 units). Much of your learning will occur while in the field. However, before we leave, you will need to get involved in choosing a topic that will be all yours! To earn a grade in this class, you will need to:

1. Attend orientation/pre-trip meetings (or communicate with G. Hayes or S. Kerr independently) and wrap-up meeting(s)
2. Prepare and write a paper or present a topic of interest to the class on the trip (more on this later).
3. Participate in class lectures during the trip and take complete and detailed notes during these lectures. Keep a journal/field notes while at each stop during the trip (museum information, etc).
4. Complete regular and pop-quizzes during the trip.
5. Keep a good attitude and sense of humor!

Fees: In addition to MJC registration costs for a 3 unit class (also for Geology), there is an \$2,850 trip fee which covers on-island/inter-island transportation, hotel costs, entry fees and teaching materials. It is paid in the MJC Business Office in the Student Center on East Campus. Please pay as soon as possible. This fee does not include your airfare to and from the Hawaiian Islands.

Textbooks and Materials: There are no books to purchase...you will be given readings to complete along the way. These are Zero Textbook Cost courses.

If you would like some good background reading in the anthropological studies of the islands, Patrick Kirsch's, *A Shark Going Inland is My Chief* is a good place to start.

Please bring along a journal type notebook for keeping lecture and fieldnotes during the trip (a self-contained book of paper, not pages in a binder—these might blow away!)

Quizzes:

During the course of the trip you will have quizzes on the regions we visit as well as the general information you should all be prepared with before we leave.

Field and Lecture Notes:

At each stop, we will have a lecture on the region and what you should be learning while visiting. For each of these lectures, you should take detailed notes for your reference (paper, presentation), as part of your complete packet to be turned in at the end of the trip, and since these topics will be addressed in future quizzes! In addition to the actual lecture, you should get used to taking your field notebook with you as you travel around the parks and take notes on the things that you see and learn. These will help you in all ways presented above as well!

More Important Information about the Trip!



Food Considerations

Breakfasts:

Check Accommodations Chart for Hotels that provide breakfasts. On mornings where breakfast is not provided, plan on local restaurants or fast food.

Lunches:

Assume lunch to be on the road or trail every day and carry food accordingly. Check itinerary and listen for our suggestions for each day. We will have a limited “tailgate” party at lunchtime with various snack foods available. Bring a reusable cooler bag and water bottle!

Dinners:

Most days we plan to be back at our hotel each day by dinner time. You will have free time to go where you wish. There is often a restaurant within the hotel or within a short walk. You may ask if a driver plans to go into town. There will be one or two days in Hilo when we are going to be out way past sundown. We will let you know ahead of time when that will happen.

Your “Family”:

While this is a formal class experience, we are also a group, and all kinds of group dynamics apply when we travel together in close quarters, including spending nights as a group in hotels. We like to compare ourselves to one giant dysfunctional family, with little “issues” that sometimes arise. With this in mind, please remember to be kind to the others in the group and maintain a good attitude. Avoid jeopardizing yourself or others by abusing alcohol or drugs. If issues arise, contact the professors to deal with it.

Please remember at all times we are also representatives of Modesto Junior College, and that your actions reflect on all of us. As always “be kind” is good advice. Remember to tip those who serve you as housekeeping people and waitpersons.

There are also environmental considerations when travelling to the Hawaiian Islands like following guidelines on snorkeling near wildlife or avoiding ceremonial areas. We will be sure to inform you about these before we travel, though usually common sense is all that is required to behave respectfully.