

Syllabus

COURSE DATA

Faculty

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Office Hours: By appointment

CRITERIA

This course satisfies one General Education Tier One Traditions and Cultures requirement.

Web & D2L

This is an entirely online course, and will utilize its D2L site and University of Arizona email for all communications. There are no required meetings.

COURSE CONTENT

Catalogue Description

Topics in Culture and Civilization - Multi-disciplinary intro to the Sonoran Region of Southern Arizona and Northwest Mexico. Through a series of presentations by scientists, poets, historians, folklorists, architects and other passionate observers, the course engages students with meaningful dialogue concerning one's position and obligation to a specific place.

Course Description

The course will focus on the Sonoran Region and its relationship to Mexico as well as the American Southwest. This will include the natural history, geology, archaeology, ethnography, geography, and material culture, with special emphasis on vernacular architecture, appropriate urbanism, and sustainability issues for this arid region. The readings will begin during the first week of the course, and you are expected to keep up with the reading assignments, as they are the essence of the course, and your comprehension of the content will be tested in four exams. Topics from the readings will be reinforced through visual presentations and online group discussion each week. Students will engage in three self-guided Field Visits to a variety of locations which reinforce concepts covered in class and represent the unique character of the Sonoran region. Written reports will record these experiences, as well as providing an opportunity

for further exploration of the personal impact of the class. Writing skills will be honed through peer review and revision opportunities.

Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

- Provide the student with an entrada, (entrance) into the landscape and primary tri-societal cultures (Euro, Indio and Mestizo) of the Sonoran Region and Mexico. Hopefully, a personal encuentro (encounter) with the region will occur.
- Inspire within the student an increased awareness of his/her position within this physical and cultural landscape.
- Assist the student in the development of writing communication skills related to the subject and as part of the General Education Elective requirement.
- Though this course will be taught in English, students will be exposed to certain Spanish terms of the Sonoran Borderlands, and they will be expected to retain a high percentage of this vocabulary.

Required Text

In order of their use in the class (we will be reading from 1 text at a time):

- **A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert**, Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum
- **Gathering the Desert**, Gary Nabhan, University of Arizona Press
- **The Pimería Alta**, James Officer et al, Southwestern Mission Research Center. (This one text is not available through the campus bookstore. However, we are able to obtain copies for \$12.95 at the Arizona State Museum's Giftshop near campus: http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/about/detail_dirctn.shtml. Used copies are also available through booksellers such as Bookmans and Amazon.com).
- **Sonora; An Intimate Geography**, David Yetman, University of Arizona Press
- Additional Readings as provided by instructor on D2L site will be drawn from (you do not need to purchase these texts)
 - **The Desert Cries, Craig Childs**

Assignments

Readings and Tests

The schedule for readings is as posted in the course calendar. Students are free to complete these readings according to their own timeline, however participation in discussion and exams are dependent upon keeping current with the assigned readings.

There will be four tests on the D2I site, according to the posted schedule. Each of these tests will cover the previous section's readings. The final exam is cumulative, with approximately 50% of the materials pulled from prior units.

All tests are closed book, meaning that students are on the honor system to not consult their texts or any other resources while taking the exam. Consulting outside resources during the exam is equivalent to cheating and will be subject to the University's Code of Academic Integrity (see below). Only in extreme, unusual and documented circumstances will a student be allowed to make up a test, only after having notified the instructor prior to the exam and/or providing a valid justification, i.e., medical excuse.

Visual Presentations and Discussions Presentation and Discussion Purpose and Goals
Visual presentations have been developed to reinforce the readings and provide additional links to cultural and natural life of the Sonoran region. The goal of the weekly discussions is to expand your understanding of the course readings and to discuss the results of your self-guided Field Visits. In a regular classroom environment, we might have group discussions about the readings that would include questions, opinions and personal connections.

Online discussions are meant to do the same thing, but rather than taking place in the classroom, you are posting written messages to an online bulletin board of sorts – posting your own thoughts and responding to the thoughts of others. Please remember that assignments are meant to make you think, and take the time to participate in the discussions completely. The minimum requirements given below are a starting point, it is recommended that you take real advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the Sonoran region, life in the arid Southwest and the kinds of people who live there.

Discussion Requirements

For detailed instructions [click here](#)

Self guided field visits and reports

For detailed Instructions [click here](#)

Reading Groups and Peer Review

For details [click here](#)

Grading

For details [click here](#)

Additional Reading Resources

For details [Click here](#)

Course Policies

Academic Environment

According to the ABOR 5-308, Student Code of Conduct, “the aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals.”

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one’s self.

See: <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu/>.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Student Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism available at: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor’s express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these

copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Netiquette and Online Communication

It is important to follow certain standards for online interactions, please read the [Netiquette and Online Communication Guidelines](#)

Additional Resources for Students

- The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>
- UofA Academic policies and procedures: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/aaindex.html>
- Student Assistance and Advocacy information: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

Please see <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa>.

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.