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Catalog Description

GS 338 Geology of the American Southwest

var-3sh

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

Course Syllabus

Catalog Description

GS 338 Geology of the American Southwest

var-3sh

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A field study of the major geologic features and relationships exposed in the American Southwest, including the Colorado Plateau, the Rio Grande Rift, Death Valley, and parts of the Southern Rocky Mountains. (3 weeks summer only)

6 West Texas: McKittrick Canyon (Permian reef complex): 5 mile hike up the

canyon from the foreereef to the main reef complex; Permian evaporites

7 West Texas to New Mexico: stops to look at the backreef part of the Permian reef complex, the Pedernales and Gabilan Formations, Gabilan

8 Arrived to Alamosa: White Sands - sunrise and sunset to Santa Fe

9 Santa Fe: free day (laundry, rest, a chance to put the previous 8 days' experiences in perspective)

10 Santa Fe to Los Alamos: volcanic structures of the Jemez Mts.; continue to Shiprock, NM to see erosional remnants and radiating dikes; Nacimiento Fault

22 Exam

**Evaluation Methods:**

The student will keep a daily journal which will cover geological as well as logistical topics. We expect you to record your observations daily. You will

Geologic maps of states of the Southwest

Many geological guidebooks of the Southwest including:

Chronic, Halka, 1985-1989, Roadside Geology of New Mexico, Roadside Geology of Utah, Roadside Geology of Arizona, Roadside Geology of Colorado: Mountain Press (Missoula, MT), about 150-200 pages each

DNAG (Decade of North American Geology) Guidebooks published in 1987: 6 volumes

Many articles from recent geological journals such as Bulletin of the Geological Society of America, Geology, University of Arizona Notes.

Course Analysis Questionnaire

Section A: Details of the Course

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C1: Resources are sufficient except for the aging of our 15-passenger vans. We have put a new van on our equipment request for AY 91-92.

C2: This course was taught in summer 1989 with financial assistance from a Senate Creative Teaching Award which paid for student wages (as drivers), books, maps, camping fees, and so on. We certainly appreciate the grant which purchased most of the books, maps, and field guides in the "van library."

C3: Every third summer in rotation with our other field courses.

C4: One

C5: 20 students maximum; controlled by our taking 2 vans

C6: No

C7: No