

# ART 155

## Photo Field Research Quarter (PFRQ), California Road Trip

Summer Session II  
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### Course Description

Art 155 is a 10 credit lecture course that offers students the unique opportunity to live and learn outside of the classroom actively engaging locations and communities across the entire state of California. We will be covering 2400 miles from Northern Mendocino County to the Salton Sea, from the Eastern Sierra and Death Valley to Big Sur. The PFRQ exposes students to several cultural, historical, and environmental issues facing the State of California. This exposure is intended to plant seeds of interest to further develop projects as students continue their study and art making practice at UC Santa Cruz. The following locations will be visited during the class:

Redwood Valley, Frey Winery  
Covelo, Round Valley Reservation  
McLaughlin UC Reserve, Homestake Mine  
Donner Lake  
Silver Lake  
Buckeye Hot Springs  
Convict Lake  
Manzanar Internment Camp  
Onion Valley  
Owen's Valley/Lake, Los Angeles Aqueduct  
Trona?  
Mojave Desert, Granite Mountain UC Reserve  
San Simeon  
Big Sur, Big Creek UC Reserve

The PFRQ teaches camera handling skills, concepts of composition, exposure and lighting by engaging students on location in various challenging environments, as well as techniques for interaction with found subjects and participants. There will be significant

focus on working as a positive and capable team member of an expeditionary group. Wilderness first aid will be a component of the curriculum.

A digital image capture device of some kind is required. Digital SLRs, point and shoot cameras, phones and digital notebooks and tablets capable of image capture are all acceptable devices for use in this course. Shooting analog film in addition to digital image capture is encouraged. Data storage devices (laptop, external hard drive, and CF, SDHC, SDHC Micro cards) to backup collected information are strongly recommended. Course work will consist of visual/audio data collection with an independent research focus to be edited for use in future university classes and projects. A daily field journal is required. Students will be evaluated on the quality and content of collected data, participation in the field, the field journal and a final presentation of curated imagery. Students are also required to engage in reading, written assignments, and group discussion.

The PFRQ requires serious commitment. There will be hiking in rugged environments, interactions with diverse and remote communities, and long-distance travel. No previous camping experience is required, but participants should expect to live, photograph, and actively participate on the road and outdoors with a small group throughout the quarter. The itinerary is subject to change due to environmental conditions like wildland fires, excessively dangerous heat, and air quality.

The goal of this class is to develop skills that will enable individuals to pursue field research and visual data acquisition on their own and in groups. This includes specific camera handling skills, data storage, visual literacy, components of composition, exposure and lighting, basic first aid, critical thinking, interpersonal skills to facilitate group travel and interactions with potential subjects and participants in personal research projects, creating and finding shelter on the road, and learning about photographic artists and their artworks.

## **Learning Outcomes**

- Develop a foundation of knowledge regarding the methodologies of doing field research, gathering visual and audio data, and photographic practice
- Build visual literacy in relation to substantive personal research
- To critically think about and discuss environmental, cultural, historical, social and political issues in California
- To provide research project foundations to be developed as students continue their study and art making practice
- To foster curiosity, competence and confidence in the field

## **Accommodations for Learning Needs**

Any student who thinks she, he, or they may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to submit their Accommodation Authorization

and discuss specific needs prior to the beginning of the quarter. Please contact the Disability Resource Center at 831-45-2089 in room 146 Hahn Student Services or by e-mail at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) to coordinate any accommodations.

## **Standards of Academic & Community Integrity**

All students in this class are expected to meet the high standards of academic integrity as set forth in [http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_integrity](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity) and the UCSC Principles of Community, which can be read here:

<http://registrar.ucsc.edu/navigator/appendix-a/community.html>

Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is when an idea, work, or information (including a text of any length from someone else's writing) is taken and used without crediting the originator or source (i.e. taking credit for someone else's work). Any plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic and non-negotiable F in the course. In addition, the professor will follow the procedures for Dispensation of Academic Dishonesty as set forth here: [http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/ai\\_policy-2](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/ai_policy-2)

## **Class Requirements/Basis for Evaluation**

1. Collecting visual/audio data with an independent research focus. Students will be evaluated on the quality and content of collected data.
2. Reading class articles and texts
3. Conducting personal research
4. Keeping a daily field journal

The journal is evaluated on the following criteria:

- Careful attention to historical, social, environmental and political context of site specific locations
  - Application of critical thinking skills
  - Well-crafted writing
  - Willingness to experiment with new ideas
  - Demonstrated evidence of progress throughout quarter
5. Engaging in twice daily group discussions
  6. Proactively participating in the field
  7. Presenting a final selection of imagery/audio supported by critical analysis

## **Evaluation**

The completion of all assignments is required. If you do not complete all of the assignments, you will not pass the class. Class attendance and engaged participation in group discussions is mandatory. Dismissal from PFRQ at any point in the trip is an automatic failure. The quality and substance of collected visual/audio data and field writing, level of engagement in group discussions, proactive participation in group endeavors, and final presentation of a selection of collected data will determine your grade.

## **Where to find Course Materials**

The class reading list, gear/materials list, itinerary, and syllabus will be delivered in hard copy to all participants in the PFRQ. This information will also be made available electronically via email as well Google Docs. All field trip and NRS system field location waivers will be signed in person on the first day of class.

# **Weekly Course Requirements**

## **LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS**

### **Lectures**

Historical, environmental, social, political background and contextual information as related to specific site locations. Technical and conceptual elements of photographic practice. Data storage and backup. Interview and subject/participant approach strategies. Basic first aid concepts and practices.

### **Daily Group Discussions**

Twice daily discussions of course concepts, readings, journal writings, field itinerary and personal check in.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Daily Field Journal**

Each day, students will complete a lengthy and critical written reflection. These writings will be discussed during the daily discussions. A final submission of this journal is required for review and evaluation.

### **Daily Visual/Audio Data Acquisition**

Students are required to spend 4-5 hours every day actively collecting visual and audio data in the field.

### **Daily Reading/Research**

Students are required to spend 2-3 hours reading related articles and texts from the course reading list and conducting personal research related to individual research projects.

## **WEEKLY TIME BREAKDOWN**

10 hours - Lectures  
10 hours - Group Discussions  
25 hours - Actively engaged visual/audio data collection  
15 hours - Reading/Research  
60 HOURS TOTAL

## **STUDENT GRADE BREAKDOWN**

25% Collected Visual/Audio Data  
15% Group Discussion Participation  
15% Proactive Field Participation  
25% Daily Field Journal  
20% Final Presentation

## **FINAL PRESENTATION**

Students are required to present a final selection of curated imagery/audio supported by critical analysis to the rest of the class. This presentation should also include commentary and thoughts on how this research will be continued and presented to the public.

## **UCSC ART DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

UC SANTA CRUZ is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me via email, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted with a reduction in grade for lateness for only one week after assignments are due (Please notify me of DRC accommodations before assignments are due so that we can agree on a manageable accommodation.)

In this class we abide by the UCSC Principles of Community, so please familiarize yourself with these important principles.

<https://www.ucsc.edu/about/principles-community.html>

GRADE DISPUTES (highly recommended for lower-division and large lecturer course syllabi) If you have questions about the grading of your work, please make arrangements to meet with your teaching assistant (TA) if applicable. If your questions are not resolved, please email me.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty. Acts of academic misconduct during the course, including plagiarism, can and usually do result in failure of the course, at the sole discretion of the instructor of record. Your case will be reported to the College Provost as per the Academic Integrity guidelines found on the web at:

[https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)

COURSE SURVEYS (Previously called evaluations) for faculty will be available online for students to complete towards the end of quarter. You will be sent emails to your @ucsc.edu email from the course survey system to complete your evaluations online for all of your classes. Please be thoughtful in your responses, as we take these evaluations seriously. Course surveys help faculty consider ways to improve instruction and are completely confidential.

GRAPHIC CONTENT: In Art courses you will often be assigned images, films or other material that could contain difficult ideas, uncomfortable language, or graphic depictions of sex or violence. You will be asked to treat these portrayals critically, to consider what is being expressed by the maker, or to examine the potential social impact, and to evaluate the works in a given context. Instructors are always happy to speak with you about your work, and might direct you to CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at 831-459-2628 or the Disability Resource Center (drc@ucsc.edu or 831-459-2089) should you need additional support in order to do your best work.

TITLE IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the Campus Advocacy Resources & Education (CARE) Office by calling (831) 502-2273. In addition, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential counseling support, (831) 459-2628. You can also report gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, (831) 459-2462. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1. For emergencies call 911. Faculty and Teaching Assistants are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Office should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS: The art department has a list of many resources on campus available to students. Please take a look at these to see what is available for you. <https://art.ucsc.edu/links-to-student-resources>

## **WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Week One**

#### **8/1 UCSC Campus- Art Quad**

Introductory Lecture

Field trip and NRS Reserve waivers

Gear shake out and camp set up

Amah Mutsun Relearning Program Introduction: Rick Flores

Trader Joe's

Group Discussion

### **8/2 Frey Vineyards/Winery**

Guest Lecture: Tommy Frey  
Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions  
Daily journal entry  
First aid introduction  
Background prep for Round Valley

### **8/3-4 Black Butte Campground, Covelo**

Search and survey  
Temperature of the local demographic  
Fire Department  
Reservation Office meeting and lunch with Round Valley Tribal members  
Daily journal entries  
Group discussions- am and pm

### **8/5 McLaughlin UC Reserve**

Guest Lecture: Cathy Koehler  
Lecture: Data storage and backup  
Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions- am and pm  
Daily journal entry  
Laundry  
Explore mine site

### **8/6-7 Norman Locks Compound and Nisenan Tribal Council, Nevada City**

Guest Lecture: Norman Locks  
Guest Lecture and Meeting: Shelley Covert  
Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions- am and pm  
Daily journal entry

## **Week Two**

### **8/8 Donner Lake Campground**

Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions- am and pm  
Daily journal entry

Truckee in the evening for dinner

**8/9 Silver Lake**

Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions-am and pm  
Daily journal entry  
First aid module and practice

**8/10 Buckeye Hot Springs, Bridgeport**

Mystery Exploration  
Bodie State Park?  
Group discussions-am and pm  
Daily journal entry

**8/11 Convict Lake**

**Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp**

Guest Lecture: Interpretive Tour  
Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions-am and pm  
Daily journal entry

**8/12 Onion Valley, Independence**

**Owens Valley/Lake, Los Angeles Aqueduct,  
Trona?**

Active data collection en route and on location  
Baker- food shopping for Mojave  
Group discussions  
Daily journal entry

**8/13-15 Granite Mountain UC Reserve, Mojave Desert**

Guest Lecture: Tasha La Doux  
Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions  
Daily journal entry  
First aid module and practice

**Week Three**

**8/16-17 San Simeon**

Active data collection en route and on location  
Group discussions-am and pm  
Daily journal entry  
Cambria- food shopping for Big Sur

### **8/18-19 Big Creek UC Reserve, Big Sur**

Lecture: Photographic project curation  
Group discussions-am and pm  
Daily journal entry  
Curation of collected data  
Personal Research  
Final presentations

### **8/19-20 UCSC Campus Art Quad**

For those who need to spend the night, we will be setting up camp in the quad  
Final group discussion and goodbyes

## **GEAR LIST**

### **DATA STORAGE**

It is up to you to back up and store the data that you collect. I will be using CF, SDHC and SDHC micro cards to collect and store data. I will be backing this accumulated information up on a Lacie 4TB rugged drive via my laptop when the opportunity and electricity allow for it. My drive and cards are my own personal equipment and won't be available for communal use. There will be an Art Department laptop available to download data, but you will need to have your own equipment for storing your collected data.

### **IMAGE CAPTURE DEVICE**

Analog, digital, still, motion, SLR, DSLR, rangefinder, 35mm, medium or large format, point and shoot, phone, tablet, burned stick... anything you want.

### **CHARGING EQUIPMENT**

Plenty of charged batteries for your image capture device(s). Our ability to have access to power is very limited. The van has three 12v cigarette type ports to charge equipment, but you will be responsible for bringing the chargers, cables, cords and adaptors that are needed to charge your batteries this way. I will be purchasing an inverter or two. Keep in mind the van as power supply also must be shared among 10 people and will only be

able to charge devices/batteries while the van is in transit. This is going to put a damper on frivolous cell phone usage.

### **LIMITED WATER**

Hydration is going to be very important in the areas of California that we will be visiting. Not hydrating adequately can be a severe threat to health. Make sure that you have two 1 liter water bottles. We will be buying water and filling at potable water facilities frequently. Ability to bathe will be limited at various points of the trip, most especially when we are at Norris Camp in the Mojave. At that point it is likely that we will not be showering for about a week. Things are going to get funky folks.

### **CLOTHING**

Bring layers. Lightweight, long sleeved shirts and pants help protect you from the sun and environment.

Plenty of underwear and socks! The outer layers can get grubby, but it is nice to keep those inner layers as fresh as possible.

Swim suit. We will be around plenty of water initially. It is the main way that we are going to be able to keep clean.

Comfortable, broken in hiking shoes or boots.

Hat to keep the sun off.

There will be a chance to use a washer and dryer once in the trip, so keep that in mind when packing. I know that it isn't any easy equation to balance cleanliness, comfort, and volume of packing space available. I have faith in your ability to adjust!

### **SHELTER**

Small (1-2 person) 3 season tent with rainfly and ground cloth. Rain isn't very likely, but we will be in areas where sudden thunderstorms can occur. Be prepared.

Comfortable sleeping bag and pad.

### **TOILETRIES**

Totally up to you. I would recommend plenty of sunscreen, some DR. Bronner's soap for bathing in creeks and lakes, and some baby wipes to keep fresh when water is scarce.

### **MEDICATIONS**

Bring any prescribed medications that you may be taking. If any of you have a known severe allergic reaction that can result in anaphylaxis, bring an EPI pen! It could save your life.

### **HEAD LAMP**

Hey, light with no hands.

### **FIELD JOURNAL**

Hard bound blank book with plenty of space for reflection and observation.  
Writing/art making utensils.

### **MUSIC**

Feel free to bring a small musical instrument. Space is a serious restriction on this adventure.

Harmonicas are small!

Maybe some rhythm instruments... shaker eggs, guirro, claves...

You all have voices!

### **MONEY**

You will need to bring money for food. That is not part of the course material fee. We will be stopping at some roadside restaurants and making lots of sandwiches. We will not be doing any camp cooking. We will be buying food as a group and cooking collective meals when going to a UC reserve cabin with a kitchen. These will be simple vegetarian meals like bean and cheese burritos, pasta and salad, and veggie stir fry.

### **EATING UTENSILS**

Knife, fork, spoon, plate or bowl, cup

### **POSITIVE VIBES**

Don't forget to bring your good attitude :)

### **OPTIONAL READING LIST**

The separate list of readings can be used to further enhance research on or after the trip in areas of personal interest.