

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

Course Title:	Desert Ecology & Evolution	
Instructor(s):	Dr. Christopher Eckert (chris.eckert@queensu.ca) and David Ensing	
Dates:	May 13 – May 27, 2017	
Location:	Southern Arizona and California, USA	
Cost:	<p>\$1200 (\$350 deposit to home university, \$850 balance). Excluded: airfare (~\$700) and food (~\$300). Students arrange their own air travel as long as they make it to LAX by 5pm Saturday May 13. Food will be purchased at several resupply stops throughout the course. Balance: To confirm your enrolment, we must receive the \$850 balance (cash or cheque made out to Queen's University) by March 1, 2017. This is a firm date. Failure to pay the balance on time will result in your losing your spot to someone from the waiting list. Cancellation and refund policy: To cancel and get your balance back, you must inform us in writing by March 15. This gives sufficient time to find a replacement for you. If we cannot find a replacement, your deposit is forfeit. If you cancel after March 15, we reserve the option of keeping your deposit + balance, but will do so only if we have no alternative. We will try to find a replacement, and if we do, you'll get your money back. You are welcome to find a replacement for yourself, and then we're all happy.</p>	
Prerequisites:	<p>Completed year 2 in a biology program. Introductory ecology, evolution and statistics are helpful but not essential. NOTE: Valid passport (and VISA if necessary) for travel to the USA. Up to date tetanus shot. Sense of humour and a love of the outdoors.</p>	
Enrolment:	16 students (2 reserved for Queen's)	
Description:	<p>This course explores the ecology & evolution of plants and animals in the terrific deserts and arid lands of the southwestern USA. Through class exercises and group research projects, we will investigate how geological, climatic and biotic factors interact to influence the abundance, distribution, life histories, reproductive strategies and behaviour of desert organisms.</p> <p>We will meet at the Los Angeles International Airport (California, LAX) 5pm Saturday, May 13 and will travel from site to site in rented 15-passenger vans, spending 13 days visiting Saguaro National Park, Organ Pipe Nation Monument and Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona plus Anza Borego State Park and Joshua Tree National Park in California.</p> <p>All nights are spent in the field, camping in tents. Each student will need the use of a tent, a warm sleeping bag, a sleeping pad and eating tools. Meals will usually be camp-style, with students participating in preparation and clean-up. We will supply stoves, pots and pans. When we are in areas with no ready water supply we rely on packed water, so there will be no luxury water use (e.g. showering or hair washing). This will require flexibility with respect to personal hygiene.</p>	
Evaluation:	<p>Trailside seminar in the field</p> <p>Formal write-up of an independent field research project</p> <p>Field notebook</p> <p>Practical hands-on exam conducted in the field</p> <p>Participation</p>	<p>20%</p> <p>40%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>15%</p>

***\$350 Deposit is due at time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.