

RTM 151H Introduction to Caving (2)
California State University, Northridge
Department of Recreation and Tourism Management
Aug 26 7:00 pm
Ticket # 16766

Instructor: Martin Crawford
Office: Redwood Hall – Room 267
Meeting Room: Redwood Hall – Room 153
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Important Dates

Class Meetings: Aug 26, Sep 2, 9, 16 (7:00 pm each day)
Field Trip One: Sep 13 (10:00 am – 5:00 pm) Approximately 30-40 minutes from CSUN
Field Trip Two: Sep 26,27,28 (Mojave National Preserve)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This class is an introduction to the safe exploration of caves and the underground environment, including cave formations and features, techniques and special hazards. Emphasis is on safety techniques for horizontal and vertical caves, environmental awareness, and skill development. Arranged field trips are required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of the course students should be able to:

1. Apply safety techniques for group exploration of horizontal caves
2. Apply safety techniques for ascending and descending in vertical caves
3. Evaluate the environment and appropriately manage risks
4. Appropriately navigate a group in cave environments
5. Synthesize information related to group impacts on underground environments and the Leave No Trace philosophy
6. Describe the clothing and equipment necessary to safely navigate caves
7. Demonstrate the basic skills required for safe single-rope ascending and descending
8. Develop the basic skills and methods that promote health and safety in backcountry environments including body regulation, hazards of the outdoor environment, fires, stoves, basic navigation, nutrition, water purification.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

The class will combine readings, lectures, and experiential activities designed to develop the knowledge and skill competencies necessary for safe and environmentally sensitive experiences of cave exploration.

Over 80% of the class time will be spent at actual field locations acquiring the competencies mentioned in the outline.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

- Class Meetings.....40% (10% each)
- Field Trip One20%
- Field Trip Two 30%
- Skills Exam.....10%

1. Examinations: One examination will be given to test the readings and lecture material and will focus on comprehension of field practices. The exam will represent 10% of the grade.
2. Field experiences: Students will be expected to satisfactorily perform techniques and skills discussed in the class outline.

TEXT: Graydon, Don (ed.). Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills. 5th ed. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1992.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hellweg, Paul & Nathan Warstler. Climber's Guide to Southern California. Canoga Park: Canyon Publishing Co., 1986.

Long, John. How to Rock Climb, 2nd Edition. Evergreen, CO: Chockstone Press, 1993.

Loughman, Michael. Learning to Climb Rock. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1981.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS, MISCELLANEOUS PEOPLE, FIREARMS, OTHER FOOD. TO BRING ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL MEAN A FAILING GRADE ASSIGNMENT. THEIR USE IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR SAFETY POLICY.

WHAT ABOUT RAIN/SNOW ETC.: IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT WEATHER CONDITIONS, CALL 310-795-7678 ON FRIDAY MORNING AND A CANCELLATION MESSAGE WILL BE ON THE MESSAGE MACHINE IF THE TRIP IS OFF

MISC. RULES

*TRIP BEGINS AND ENDS AT TRAILHEAD; *CARPOOLS ARE ENCOURAGED FOR

ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS BUT ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS.

COURSE POLICIES:

The CSUN criteria for grading (as outlined in the CSUN catalog) will be strictly followed.

1. An Incomplete (“I”) is assigned as specified by Instructor and upon consultation and approval of Instructor.
2. For Credit/No Credit grading, students must be doing passing work to receive “Credit.”
3. Plus/Minus grading will be used.
4. No make-up tests (unless prior permission received)

Student Discipline:

Inappropriate conduct by students (such as cheating on examinations or failure to comply with field trip rules) is subject to discipline as provided in Sections 41304 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. Refer to CSUN catalog for further details.