

**GEOLOGY / SOIL SCIENCE 496  
DEATH VALLEY FIELD COURSE  
SPRING SEMESTER, 2007**

**ANNOUNCEMENT AND REGISTRATION FORM**

In Spring, 2007, the NDSU Departments of Geosciences and of Soil Sciences will co-sponsor a 2-credit, field experience course. This 8-day, “spring break” course will center on the geology and soils of the Death Valley region. Travel dates: March 10-17.

Travel to/from Las Vegas will be via Allegiant Air, flying out of Fargo. Field travel will be in rental vans. Accommodations include 2 nights of hotel (shared, 3-4 per room) and 5 nights of camping (tents, student-provided). Even though Death Valley is usually a great place to sleep “under the stars,” rain and cold can still occur. Provisions for meals will be the obligation for each participant. Expect most of the meals to be “uninteresting,” as access to groceries will be highly limited.

Students will participate in a required weekly class, through contributions of a guidebook chapter, presentation of a field talk during the field trip, and active engagement throughout the field week.

A non-refundable course fee is required in advance. The fee covers your air transportation, van transportation, and hotel/camping costs, field notebook, text materials, and the cost of admissions to all parks and fee areas.

For 2007, there is an unusually significant subsidy being provided to benefit students of the Geology program. Hence, the fee structure is multi-tiered, as follows:

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Geology Majors:            | \$250             |
| Geology Minors (Declared): | \$350             |
| Other Students:            | \$400             |
| Geology Friends:           | \$500             |
| Soils Majors:              | (See Dr. Hopkins) |

Students should, in addition, anticipate the following expenses:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| \$100+  | Food and beverage.                                    |
| \$25-35 | Emergency money (weather-related room expenses, etc.) |

Enrollment is on a “first-pay, first-served” basis.

Payments of course fees will be accepted at FLC Rooms 314A and 314E beginning immediately.

For further information, please contact Dr. D.P. Schwert, NDSU Geosciences (701-231-7496; [donald.schwert@ndsu.edu](mailto:donald.schwert@ndsu.edu)) or Dr. D. Hopkins, NDSU Soils Sciences (701-231-8948; [david.hopkins@ndsu.edu](mailto:david.hopkins@ndsu.edu)).

### **To enroll:**

1. If taking the course for credit, enroll in Geology or Soil Science 496, SH.
2. Pay a non-refundable deposit of \$200 by Tuesday, January 16. This ensures your place on the trip and may not be transferred to anyone else without prior approval of instructor. All deposits will be collected by NDSU Geosciences at FLC 314.
3. Pay the balance by Tuesday, February 13.

### **ALLEGIANT AIR BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS**

Your course fee includes up to two pieces of checked baggage, plus one carry-on. Additional checked baggage or oversize baggage is your responsibility. The following is the statement on baggage policies from Allegiant Air:

**Carry-On Baggage:** Carry-on bags must comply with baggage regulations. The dimensions for a carry-on bag must not exceed 9" x 16" x 19". The bag must be able to fit under your seat, or in the overhead compartment.

**Checked Baggage:** Passengers wishing to check luggage will be charged a per person, per bag, per segment Baggage Transport Fee. All Baggage Transport Fees are non-refundable. Each bag must weight 50 lbs or less. *The outside measurements of each bag must not exceed eighty (80) inches\**. Each additional bag will be charged a fee of \$50.00 per bag. Total number of bags allowed is not to exceed 4 per passenger.

**Oversized Bags:** Baggage weighing over 50lbs. will be assessed the following overweight baggage fees:

51 lbs. - 70 lbs. = \$25.00 per bag

71 lbs. - 100 lbs. = \$50.00 per bag

\*Generally, this represents length + width + depth.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES - PLEASE READ!**

1. The Departments make no guarantee regarding the quality of campgrounds, the availability of showers, toilets, or water, the regularity of meals (or other forms of “regularity”!), weather-related conditions, etc. Come prepared for the worst of conditions.
2. Enrollees are reminded that they MUST have a good medical/disability policy of their own.

Students are to inform Dr. Schwert in advance of any medical conditions that might affect their performance during the field week.

At all times, students should use all precautions possible to assure a safe trip. As faculty, we cannot supervise the activities of each of you at all times, and we trust that you have the maturity and judgment to conduct yourselves wisely, courteously, and safely.

Only a partial refund can be provided to enrollees who must leave the trip for medical or

other reasons. As this course is tightly-budgeted on a “break-even” basis, anyone leaving the trip for any reason will be responsible for paying their own transportation back to Fargo.

3. The course grade will be evaluated on the quality of each student's classroom and field participation, the quality of each student's field presentation, and the quality of a notebook of field observations.
4. Students are responsible for their own transportation to destination points. No refunds can be made due to one's failure to arrive at the respective airports on time.
5. *The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited for the duration of the academic portion of the field course.*
6. Non-NDSU participants need not enroll for credit. You must understand that this is not a formal “tour,” and you must expect to go with the flow under what might be grungy, cold, circumstances over long days. But you will get to observe some great geology and soils! As with all of the others, you will be expected to contribute academically and positively to the trip/course, and you will be given a pre-assignment to work on to present in conjunction with the trip.
7. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have an all day tour of the U.S. Department of Energy Yucca Mountain project site on the Nevada Test Range. The tour is open only to U.S. citizens. No cameras, binoculars, cell phones, Blackberries or equivalent, GPS devices, or other recording/visual equipment will be allowed; these will be locked in the vans for the day.

Attached is a form for each of you to fill out neatly and submit to DPS. Below is more info, as provided by the Yucca Mountain tour leaders.

#### **What to wear**

Guests must wear long pants, shirts with sleeves and sturdy leather shoes such as, work boots, hiking boots, western boots or athletic shoes. Also, dressing in layers and having sunscreen is advised.

#### **All guests must bring a photo ID**

U.S. Citizens can use a driver’s license or a DOE badge

**Guests must NOT bring, cell phones with camera or video capability, binoculars, cameras, recording equipment, Blackberry units, GPS devices, laptop computers, firearms/weapons or alcoholic beverages**

#### **All lunches include:**

- Croissant Sandwich
- Fresh piece of fruit
- Wedge of pie
- Bag of chips
- Soft Drink

**NOTE:** although the lunches include, pie, fresh fruit and a cold salad, choices on these items are not available. All croissant sandwiches include your choice of meat, lettuce and tomato with mayo and mustard in packets. The veggie croissant sandwich contains avocado, sprouts, lettuce and tomato.

**GEOLOGY 496 REGISTRATION  
SPRING FIELD COURSE --- 2007**

*(PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH YOUR FIRST PAYMENT\*)*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENTS:**

\$200 trip deposit in either cash (a receipt will be provided) or in the form of a check payable to "NDSU GEOSCIENCES DEPARTMENT." (This applies to all participants).

The balance is due as scheduled on the announcement. **Please submit all payments to Dr. Schwert or to Ms. Faulkner, Family Life Center Room 314.**

In registering for this course, I agree to the following:

1. I will make the remaining fee payments, as scheduled on the announcement.
2. I understand that these fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.
3. I carry my own medical insurance coverage.
4. I will inform and instruct Dr. Schwert or Hopkins regarding any pre-existing health issues.
5. I have read and agree to comply with the alcoholic beverage policy.
6. I agree to represent North Dakota State University in a responsible manner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date:)