



## California Naturalist Syllabus for Acterra- Spring 2016

**Instructors:** Claire Elliott, Joanne McFarlin, Lynn Hori

**Guest Lecturers:** see draft syllabus

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California Naturalist website: <http://ucanr.org/sites/UCCNP/>

### Course Description:

The California Naturalist class will introduce you to the wonders of our unique ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California's natural communities. The course will utilize a combination of science curriculum; guest lecturers, field trips and project based learning to immerse you in the natural world of the San Francisco Peninsula.

### UC California Naturalist Program goals:

- foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration
- provide training, in collaboration with local partnering institutions, for adult environmental stewards through an adaptable outdoor and in class curriculum that can be as easily applied in a variety of settings
- engage adults in interactive learning that provides them with scientific literacy and critical thinking skills

### Participant Learning Outcomes:

***By the end of this course, participants should be able to:***

- 1) Understand what it means to be a naturalist
- 2) Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of San Francisco Peninsula
- 3) Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook.
- 4) Apply knowledge of the San Francisco Peninsula area ecosystems to local and global environmental issues.

**Required Text: California Naturalist Textbook (bring your own or order when you sign up for the course).**

## **Components of the California Naturalist Program**

### ***Class & Readings***

Class will be held once a week for 3 hours and each week there will be readings to be done before class in the California Naturalist textbook and additional optional readings.

### ***Field Trips***

This class will have **5** field trips. Four are required to complete the certification. Please see the course schedule below for field trip dates. We will be carpooling when possible for field trips.

### ***Field Notebooks***

All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course and hopefully beyond. We will be using these journals during class, on field trips and hopefully on your own time. Keeping a field journal is one of the best ways of fostering continued learning and getting to know a place intimately.

### ***iNaturalist***

Over the course of the California Naturalist class, participants will add to the Acterra's iNaturalist project. Each participant is responsible for adding at least **5 observations**. We will go over the iNaturalist program on the first day of class. The link to our class project site is: <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/pt-lobos-and-surrounds-uc-california-naturalist-project>

### ***Capstone***

As a requirement of this course, participants are required to complete a volunteer service project. It is designed to provide a bridge from the class to service. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate, and on the final night of class will have presentations on the projects. Presentations will be 5 minutes long per person (so 15 minutes for a 3 person group) and are to summarize the work that the group has done.

### ***Volunteering***

Naturalists are encouraged to complete at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year. Criteria for California Naturalist volunteer service

The activity needs to:

- Relate to California's natural or environmental cultural history
- Occur in California
- Be sponsored by an organization
- Be unpaid

Each volunteer service activity should fit under one of these categories: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen Science and Program Support.

We will log these volunteer hours on the UC Volunteer Portal, which will be covered during the first day of class. Here is the link to the Volunteer Portal:

<https://uccn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Attendance: Participants must complete 40 hours of instruction during the class. Only one class session can be missed and participants can make-up class activities on their own time- please talk to me if you are going to miss a class. Because of the unique aspects of the field trips, participants must attend four field trips. A rain day or make up day will be provided in the event we cancel for weather or participants' unexpected needs.

**Course Calendar:** Tuesday Evenings- 6:30pm- 9:00pm mostly at the Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto, occasionally at McClellan Ranch In Cupertino. Field trip times vary by date, please see below.

## Acterra California Naturalist Spring 2016 Schedule

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Topic/Location/Reading</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/15 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Introduction Reading: Chapters 1 and 8</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/19 9AM-1PM</b>	<b>Field Trip to Don Edwards, Baylands Ecology and Journaling</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/22 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Geology/Climate and Soils Reading: Chapter 2</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/29 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Water Reading: Chapter 3</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4/2 9AM-1PM</b>	<b>Field Trip to Arastradero Preserve</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4/5 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Plants Reading: Chapter 4</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4/12 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Forest/Woodland and Range Resources and Management Reading: Chapter 5</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4/16 9AM-1PM</b>	<b>Field Trip Jasper Ridge Dam/Creek water issues</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4/19 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Animals Reading: Chapter 6</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4/23 9AM-1PM</b>	<b>Field trip to McClellan Ranch</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4/26 6:30-9:00PM</b>	<b>Energy and Global Environmental Issues Reading: Chapter 7</b>
<b>Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>4/30 12:00PM to 5/1 1PM</b>	<b>Foothills Park Weekend (optional camping)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5/3 Tuesday 6:30-9:30PM</b>	<b>Capstone Presentations</b>