**UC ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS**

**CALIFORNIA NATURALIST COURSE SYLLABUS - TEMPLATE**

**REVISED: 08.31.23**

Blue highlighted text indicates opportunities where partner organizations are expected to customize the syllabus. Other areas of text may be customized as well.

[Course Title] [Partner Logo] A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

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| Instructor Enter Instructor Name Phone Enter Phone Email Enter Email Course Start & End 00/00/0000  00/00/0000 Environmental Stewards Website http://calnat.ucanr.edu/ Registration http:// Course Fee $ Course Location Enter Building, Room Course Schedule Enter Hours, Days | Course Overview **General**. UC Environmental Stewards seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and community scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. UC Environmental Stewards courses use education and service to inspire and empower individuals to create more sustainable and resilient communities and ecosystems. The California Naturalist course introduces you to the wonders of your local ecology and engages you in the stewardship of California’s natural communities. It combines a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.  This California Naturalist course offered through [name of your organization] will focus in particular on **[enter regionally specific information such as the watershed covered, the unique natural and cultural resources to be addressed and any special issues or themes to be explored.]** Learning Outcomes  * Understand what it means to be a naturalist. * Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of the central coast. * Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook. * Apply knowledge of the local bioregion to local and global environmental issues. * Recognize the value of natural and cultural resources to our community/society. * Meet all course requirements.  Course Requirements  * **Contact Time**: Each California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (classroom hours and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field. * **Required Reading:**    + **Californian Naturalist Handbook** by Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stanger Edelman, Adina Merenlender   + **The relevant Bioregional report from** [**UC ANR California Naturalist Series**](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/calnat_pubs/)**.** [[Sierra Nevada Region](https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8535.pdf), [Central Coast Region](https://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/calnat_pubs/#B) and/or [California Current](https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8684.pdf) – see list to determine if these are required reading for your CalNat course] * **Class Attendance and Field Trips**: [Enter attendance policy]. Sample Language: Participants must attend all classes and field trips (8 hour minimum). If [enter] is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. * **Stewardship Project:** Participants are required to complete a Stewardship Project in one of the program’s six volunteer stewardship project areas:  1) Education/Interpretation, 2) Participatory Science, 3) Conservation/Restoration,  4) Environmental and Climate Justice,  5) Community Resilience and Adaptation, and 6) Program Support.  The Stewardship Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project that is done in conjunction with a natural resource agency or organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Stewardship Projects in the first [two] weeks of the course and begin recording their project information and volunteer hours in the UC Volunteer Portal. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver individual or group Stewardship Project presentations (5 minutes long per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours in addition to the 40 hours in the course on the Stewardship Project and they are required to upload these hours in the Volunteer Portal prior to graduation/certification. * **Using a Field Notebook and Journal**: All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course. The course encourages all participants to develop the skills of systematically recording field observations. At the same time, participants can use a journal to reflect on their observations as well as what they have learned in the course. These are the twin goals of the field notebook and the journal. [Enter expectation.] Sample Language: Create a field notebook with entries from all field days and preferably more. Field notebooks may be checked by the instructor periodically during the class or at the end. * **iNaturalist Observation and Partner iNaturalist Project**: during the California Naturalist course, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (http://www.inaturalist.org/) and adding at least ten (10) observations to the class iNaturalist project. Our iNaturalist project is [Enter your class iNaturalist project name and link.] * **Class Participatory Science Project**: Each participant must contribute to the participatory science project adopted by the class. Our class participatory science project is [Enter the lass project name and if applicable, insert link.] * **Evaluation**: Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is highly encouraged. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.   **Recommended Supplemental Reading**   * Explore the cultural resources of California State Parks: <https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22499>  Course Materials The first three course materials are required. Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an e-mail account. The last two are helpful but are not required.   * **Required reading**: The Californian Naturalist Handbook by Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stanger Edelman, Adina Merenlender * **[enter name and link https://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/calnat\_pubs/ to the required** [UC ANR California Naturalist bioregional Report](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/calnat_pubs/) **for your area]** * **Required:** Access to internet connected computer or phone and an email account for communication, Volunteer Portal access, and iNaturalist. * **Required:** Field Notebook (If you don’t own one, the types of journal will be discussed during the first course session.) * **Required:** Pencil(s) * **Recommended:** Hand lens (10x) * **Recommended:** Binoculars * [Enter any additional items]  Recommended Resources  * **UC** [**Environmenatl**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg) **Stewards website:** View videos from UC Environmental Stewards conferences, meetings, and more. The “Ecosystems of California” video series with Erika Zaveleta, is also available on the channel. *Url:*<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg> * **Course Participatory Science Portal:** UC [Environmental Stewards](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/) developed a StoryMap (https://calnat.ucanr.edu/California\_PPSR/) about participatory science in the program to highlight the different types of projects and the depth of participatory science in the program. In addition, a three part video training (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBEIahTDJmdnk68AHknKbAPBw7SdEpdFX>) on participatory science drawing on examples from throughout UCANR programs.  Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal Participants will be provided with an online account to track their volunteer hours, beginning with hours you spend on your Stewardship Project. You will receive an introductory email invitation to log-into the volunteer portal, set your password and create your profile. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that email. You will be accessing the volunteer portal to record your Stewardship Project title, information and log a minimum of 8 Stewardship Project hours as one of the requirements for certification. The Volunteer Portal website is: <https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr>.  Participants are encouraged to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year. Tracking volunteer hours after completing the course is optional but strongly encouraged as an essential way to document the impact of the UC Environmental Stewards program. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pins differ from year to year.  **Volunteer activities** need to relate to California’s natural or environmental history, occur in California, be sponsored by one or more organization, and be unpaid.   * Your 8-hour Stewardship Project will count toward your first year’s volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the Volunteer Portal under one of the six Stewardship Project Activities.   + Stewardship Project (Participatory Science)   + Stewardship Project (Community Resilience & Adaptation)   + Stewardship Project (Environmental & Climate Justice)   + Stewardship Project (Conservation/Restoration)   + Stewardship Project (Education/lnterpretation)   + Stewardship Project (Program Support) * After recording your 8 hours for your stewardship project, record your additional volunteer hours under the activity that best fits your service. For example:   + If your Stewardship project involves restoration, then you select **Stewardship Project (Conservation/Restoration)** as your activity. If you continue volunteer doing additional restoration work or for something different such as creating a plant guide, choose **Restoration** as your activity in the first case and **Education Materials Production** for time spent creating the plant guide. * There are resources available to help familiarize yourself with the Volunteer Portal and commonly used features. View useful help guides and videos at <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/>   **Course Credit**  Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through UC Davis Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) for an additional fee. Eligible participants will receive a link to a website and guidance on the process to request and pay for credits. Credits are only processed at the end of each quarter and may take several weeks to arrive. A Certified Naturalist can only receive credits from one institution. If their community college provides credits for the certification, they are not eligible for the UC credits. In some cases, a sponsoring agency or organization covers all participant costs and secures the credits on behalf of the participant. |
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Homework Policy

[Enter policy.]

# Attendance Policy

[Enter policy.] Participants must complete [minimum of 40+] hours of instruction during the class. Note for partners/instructors: The number of hours depends on your total instruction hours, some courses that meet over a whole semester may have a slightly different policy. Sample Language: Only [#] class session (# hours) can be missed and participants can request a make-up session or assignment from their instructor. Because of the unique aspects of field trips, participants need to attend all field trips. In the case of an emergency and the field trip is missed, participants may be able to arrange an alternative option at the discretion of the instructor.

# Cancellation Policy

[Enter policy.] Note for partners/instructors: UC Environmental Stewards recommends a clear cancellation policy also be posted on your website and registration materials as well. UC Environmental Stewards invoices each partner organization after the first week of class, when all course participants have been identified and confirmed. Please plan for that in your cancellation policy. Sample Language: “Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a $50 administrative fee. Registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that experience a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, between the two weeks of class before and after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund.”

# Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods that promote active adult learning such as experiential learning, inquiry-based approaches and transformative learning. Instructors are strongly encouraged to build on the participant’s prior knowledge and experience, promote peer-to-peer discussion, hands-on activities, and other approaches.

# Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

[Enter accommodation policy.] Sample Language: “Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting [Instructor name].” [Enter statement.] Note for partners/instructors: Each organization should include language detailing their own policies regarding accessibility. As outlined in the partnership agreement, ‘[Organization name] is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations to program participants with disabilities.’ Please refer to your organization for specific language to include. Sample language: If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations in this class you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) upon request.

# Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

[Enter statement.] Sample language: Students are responsible for course fees, purchasing books, and transportation for the field trips Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals and camping equipment.

[Enter any information on scholarship opportunities, if applicable.]

# Class Schedule

Note for partners/instructors: Your schedule may vary due to seasonality and availability of speakers and field trip opportunities. However this is the sequence UC Environmental Stewards suggests, as seen in the book, with one notable exception. You may consider front-loading the chapter on interpretation and communication (8) to help students better process the rest of the materials. Optional: Include a column(s) for other important dates e.g. Stewardship Project progress reports/check-ins or iNaturalist due dates.

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| Wk | Date | Topic/Subject (instructional activity)  (Reading/Assignments Due) | Speaker  (Title & Affiliation) |
| 1 | Date | **Introduction to Natural History & Course Administration**  (Ch. 1) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 2 | Date | **Interpretation, Collaboration, & Participatory Science**  (Ch. 8; Log into Volunteer Portal and set up your profile) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 3 | Date | **Geology, Climate and Soils**  (Ch. 2; Stewardship Project Outline) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 4 | Date | **Water Resources**  (Ch. 3) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 5 | Date | **Plants**  (Ch. 4; Record your Stewardship Project title, short description, Stewardship Project Activity category and first Stewardship Project hour(s) in the Volunteer Portal) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 6 | Date | **Forests, Woodland and Range**  (Ch. 5; [Complete reading bioregional report] ) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 7 | Date | **Animals**  (Ch. 6) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 8 | Date | **Energy & Global Environmental Issues**  (Ch. 7) | Name, title, affiliation |
| 9 | Date | *[Flex Week (Special Topic/Theme of interest/expertise to the organization)]*  (Document a minimum of 8 volunteer hours spent on your Stewardship Project and associated information in the UC Volunteer Portal - <https://apps.ideal-logic.com/ucanr>). | Name, title, affiliation |
| 10 | Date | **Stewardship Project Presentations and Graduation**  (Complete Course Evaluation) | Name, title, affiliation |

*See the field trip schedule on the next page.*

# Field Trip Schedule: Bring your nature journals and other items outlined for each field trip. (Detailed field trip information and schedule will be provided the week prior to each field trip.)

[Add due dates for anything that is due during or associated with a given field trip e.g note Nature Journal activities, the iNaturalist project, or the Participatory Science project etc].

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| Wk/Day | Date | Subject/Topic  (time, emergency contact) | Mtg. Location/Time  (map link) | Speaker  (Title & Affiliation) |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact)  [Nature Journal Q&A] | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact) | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact)  [Nature Journals share] | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact)  [Participatory Science project] | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact)  [iNaturalist project – 10 entries] | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact) | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |
| [] | Date | Field Trip  (time, emergency contact)  [Nature Journals check] | Address  (Map link) | Name, title, affiliation |