

Wildlife Exploration: Session 4 -Local Island Ecology

Instructors: Rachel Ameche and Jenni Buchanan

Course Description: Discover the incredible natural and cultural history of the Channel Islands! This course takes students on an exciting journey through the unique landscapes, weather patterns, and diverse wildlife of this remarkable archipelago. We will explore the evolutionary history of island species, including the famous Channel Islands fox, and study the rich bird and mammal populations that call these islands home. Through engaging lessons and hands-on field trips to the University of Channel Islands park, botanical gardens, local hikes, and the Chumash museum, students will gain a deeper understanding of the islands' geography, ecology, and the Indigenous peoples who have lived there for thousands of years. Join us for an adventure in science, history, and conservation!

Materials Needed: A nature journal will be provided, and the students will need to bring it to each class. Students also need to be prepared to walk outdoors and will need to come with walking shoes, sunscreen, and weather-appropriate clothing. A pair of binoculars is highly encouraged. We will have some available to borrow, but students may end up sharing.

Important Note: This is a field class, and some classes will be held off campus. We need to be in touch with parents to update them on field trip plans, which may depend on the weather.

Additionally, we need permission to drive your student in our cars to and from the locations of the field trips. As field trips are somewhat dependent on the availability of the sites and the weather, they will be confirmed the previous week. A text message or email confirmation of parental permission **will be requested for each field trip.**

Grading: grading will be based on participation.

Schedule of classes and field trips, subject to change based on weather.

1. **April 3 Field Trip: Chumash Museum**
2. April 10 in class: Island Geology
3. **April 17 Field Trip: CSU Channel Islands University Park**
Spring Break
4. **May 1 Field Trip: Thousand Oaks Botanical Gardens**
5. May 8 in class: Avian Species
6. May 15 in class: Marine mammals
7. ***May 22 Field Trip: Leo Carillo - *Early Departure, leave by 8:30 am***
8. May 29 in class: Land Mammals