

SCI-913 – Estuaries: Fragile Coastal Environments

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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Number of Graduate Semester Units: 3 units
Target Audience: K – 12th grade teachers
Course Access: <https://connect.fresno.edu>

Course Description

This course explores the uses and functions of estuaries. These coastal environments not only provide habitats for marine life but are economically important and also have high recreational and aesthetic value. You will learn how fragile these environments are in the face of urbanization and the importance of protecting and preserving these treasures. Due to the fact that the San Francisco Bay has the designation of being the most heavily invaded estuary in the world, in this course it serves as an excellent example to illustrate the processes that operate in estuaries and the influence of human activities. You will have the opportunity to examine and apply the Next Generation Science Standards, as well as the connections between the NGSS and the Common Core, as you develop lessons and activities to enrich your science curriculum. The rich, engaging environment of the online classroom will allow you to connect with other educators as you share resources, lessons and ideas. Visiting the San Francisco Bay area, or another estuary, is optional and textbook is to be purchased separately. *Assignments are available for teachers who are not currently in the classroom.*

Note: Required textbook must be acquired separately.

Required Texts and Course Materials

Textbook: Conradson, D. R. (1996). *Exploring Our Baylands*. San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society ISBN-13: 978-0964932807 <https://www.amazon.com/Exploring-Our-Baylands-Diane-Conradson/dp/0964932806>

Note: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbook, analyzing the content, and applying what they learned to the course assignments. You are welcome to purchase used, ebook, or new versions to save money. You can order the book directly from the publisher or from one of several discount aggregators (for example): <http://books.nettop20.com>

Online Resources: Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are

utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

Canvas: This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

National Standards Addressed in This Course

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

Next Generation Science Standards

The Next Generation Science Standards identify the science all K-12 students should know. The standards are rich in content and practice and arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grades to provide all students an internationally benchmarked science education. The concepts covered in this course align within the following Disciplinary Core Ideas in the areas of Life Sciences (LS) and Earth and Space Sciences (ESS) in Elementary, Middle School and High School: *LS1A: Structure and Function, LS2A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, LS2B: Cycles of Matter & Energy Transfer in Ecosystems, LS3A: Inheritance of Traits, and LS4A: Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity, EES3A: Natural Resources, and ESS3C: Human Impacts on Earth's Systems.*

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) (www.corestandards.org)

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The goal of this initiative is to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and math in grades K-12. The point of this effort is simple: improving teaching and learning to ensure that high school graduates in every part of the nation have the knowledge and skills they need for college or a career. The Common Core Standards are both

research and evidence-based as well as internationally benchmarked. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school fully prepared for college and careers.

Though the program is optional, states that adopt it are more likely to receive Race to the Top federal dollars

Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes

CE 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
CE 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for This Course

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:	National Standards Addressed in This Course*	Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes Addressed**
1. Identify the various origins and types of estuaries.	NGSS EES3A NBPTS 2, 5	CE 1,2,4,6
2. Identify marine life that inhabits estuaries.	NGSS LS1A, NGSS LS2A, NGSS LS2B, NGSS LS3A, NGSS LS4A NBPTS 2, 5	CE 1,2,4,6
3. List and describe a variety of plants that grow in and around estuaries	NGSS LS2B, NGSS LS3A, NGSS LS4A NBPTS 2, 5	CE 1,2,4,6
4. Describe the ways in which humans interact with estuaries.	NGSS LS1A, NGSS LS2A, NGSS LS2B NGSS LS3A, NGSS LS4A, NGSS EES3C NBPTS 2, 5	CE 1,2,4,6

5. Describe the ecology of an estuary.	NGSS LS2A, NGSS LS2B, NGSS LS3A, NGSS LS4A, NGSS EES3A NBPTS 2, 5	CE 1,2,4,6
6. Identify and explain the importance of conservation and restoration of coastal and estuarine habitats.	NGSS LS2A, NGSS LS2B NGSS, NGSS LS4A, NGSS EES3C	CE 1,2,4,6
7. Locate and critically evaluate sources related to the course topic.	NBPTS 1,2,3,4	CE 1,2,4,6
8. Apply grade level state or district science learning standards to develop integrated lesson plans with other subjects including math, natural history and social studies. .	NBPTS 1,2,3,4	CE 1,2,4,6
9. Develop and deliver assessments, projects, and assignments that meet standards-based learning goals and assess the learning progress by measuring student achievement of learning goals.	NBPTS 1,2,3,4	CE 1,2,4,6
10. Collaborate with colleagues through the use of web-based technologies.	NBPTS 5	CE 1,2,4,5,6
11. Assess and reflect upon teaching practices and the classroom environment in relation to the course content by responding to focus questions	NBPTS 4,5	CE 3, CE 5

* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

** Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Module Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
Welcome Module	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction video • Course Syllabus • Introduce Yourself Forum • Moodle Online Tutorial 	
Module 1 – Getting Started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Moodle Orientation information • 1.1: Course Orientation • 1.2: Orientation Assignment • 1.3: Introductions Discussion Forum • 1.4: What Grade Level Do You Teach? Poll 	
Module 2 – Standards-Based Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1: Standards-Based Instruction • 2.2: The Framework for K-12 Science Education Discussion Forum 	

Module 3 – Types of Estuaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1: Estuaries Presentation • 3.2: Origins and Types Estuaries Quiz • 3.3: Estuaries I have Visited Discussion Forum 	
Module 4 – Life in the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1: San Francisco Bay Estuaries • 4.2: Exploring our Baylands Quiz • 4.3: Life in the Bay Presentation • 4.4 Sharing Presentations Discussion Forum 	
Module 5 – Save the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1: Preservation, Conservation, and Restoration Annotated Bibliography Assignment • 5.2: Preservation, Conservation, and Restoration Discussion Forum 	
Module 6 – Secrets of the Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.1: Secrets of the Bay Video • 6.2: Secrets of the Bay Assessment Assignment • 6.3: Secrets of the Bay Discussion Forum 	
Module 7 – Visiting an Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.1a: Virtual Trip • 7.2a: Virtual Field Trip Assignment • 7.3a: Virtual Field Trip Discussion Forum • 7.1b: Planning the Field Study • 7.2b: Field Study Assignment. • 7.3a: Field Study Discussion Forum 	
Module 8 – Integrated Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.1: Develop Environments that Enable Students to Learn Video • 8.2: Develop Environments that Enable Students to Learn Discussion Forum • 8.3: Integrated Unit Assignment • 8.4: Sharing Lesson Plans Discussion Forum 	
Module 9 – Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.1: Reflective Essay Assignment 	
Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reflection Forum • Course Evaluation • Course Completion Checklist • Grade Request / Transcript Request 	
TOTAL POINTS		

Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percentage	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very Good	Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.
NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.

Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Include mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organization structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

Discussion Forum Requirements

- **Superior:** Response was at least 1 page (3 fully developed paragraphs) in length. Thoroughly answered all the posed questions, followed all the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is clear, concise, and easy to understand. Uses terminology appropriately and is logically organized.
- **Standard:** Response was ½ to 1 page in length (2-3 fully developed paragraphs). Answered all the questions but did not provide an in-depth analysis, followed most of the assignment directions, proper grammar and no spelling errors. Language is comprehensible, but there a few passages that are difficult to understand. The organization is generally good.

- **Sub-standard:** Response was less than ½ page in length (1 paragraph). Did not answer all the required questions and/or statements or responses were superficial, vague, or unclear, did not follow the assignment directions, many grammar and spelling errors. Is adequately written, but may use some terms incorrectly; may need to be read two or more times to be understood.

Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. A virtual office is utilized for class questions and students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

Discussion Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

Coursework Hours

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Getting Help with Canvas: If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: helpdesk@fresno.edu. Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to logon to the Continuing Education website (<https://ce.fresno.edu/my-account>) and “Request Final Grade”. Once the instructor receives the requests and submits the grade online, students may log back in to view their Final Grade Report or order transcripts online. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted. For more information, see the Continuing Education Policies and Procedures at <https://ce.fresno.edu/ce-policies-and-procedures>.

University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will *exhibit* clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically *evaluate* content and delivery components.

Written Communication: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.
Content Knowledge: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
Reflection: Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.
Critical Thinking: Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations.
Moral Reasoning: Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian world-view.
Service: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.
Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
Information Literacy: Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information.