SUNY Geneseo Department of Geological Sciences

Field Safety Plan

Death Valley Example

Pre-Activity Safety Statement

This document outlines some of the most common health, safety, environmental, and conduct issues associated with this field work experience and serves to inform you of potential hazards that need to be considered during your participation. It is important for you to evaluate the stated risks with regard to your own personal health and safety, request reasonable modifications ("accommodations") to course delivery, and modify your participation or attendance accordingly.

Required Actions

1. Read and understand all sections of this Pre-Activity Safety Statement.
2. Complete the Personal Medical Assessment either by printing it out or editing the PDF (download separate form).
3. Print out and sign the Pre-Activity Acknowledgement (on the last page of this document) indicating that you have reviewed and understand the material provided.
4. Submit a completed Personal Medical Assessment AND a signed Pre-Activity Safety Statement Acknowledgement (last page of this document only) by the specified date. Please remember, your participation on this field trip and completion of this course is contingent upon your timely submission of these forms. Submit your forms directly to Laurie Montgomery in ISC 235.

Questions

Any questions about the contents of this Safety Statement, the Personal Medical Assessment, or any topic associated with the field trip can be directed to the following professors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Scott Giorgis</td>
<td>585-245-5293</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giorgis@geneseo.edu">giorgis@geneseo.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Dori Farthing 585-245-5298 farthing@geneseo.edu
Dr. Jeff Over 585-245-5294 over@geneseo.edu
Dr. Jacalyn Wittmer-Malinowski 585-245-5291 malinowski@geneseo.edu
Dr. Sarah Gaudio 585-245-5291 gaudio@geneseo.edu
Dr. Amy Sheldon 585-245-5988 sheldon@geneseo.edu
Dr. Nicholas Warner 585-245-5293 warner@geneseo.edu

**Part 1: Statement of Hazards & Standards of Conduct**

The Geological Sciences is a department where all conversations, ideas, abilities, and opinions are respected, heard, and validated. We must all collectively commit to providing a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and equitable environment for all students and staff and to respect a platform where all have the opportunity to share ideas, solve problems, and learn from people with diverse experiences and backgrounds. This field experience must be a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment for all students regardless of whether the faculty are observing your actions. Below are several actions that we will collectively practice to be better participants in this experience.

1. Acknowledge that you will be among people of different race, ethnicity, sex, gender, socio-economic background, religious, cultural backgrounds, and physical abilities. Be respectful of these differences and recognize the opportunity for personal growth.
2. Acknowledge that you will be present in a location that has a different geography, culture, race/ethnicity, and history from what you are used to. Be respectful of these differences and mindful of the challenges and risks that they might impose.
3. Listen actively and respect others when they are talking.
4. Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge or be challenged by others.
5. Focus on ideas rather than people. Refrain from personal attacks.
6. Speak from your own experience but do not generalize.
7. Share your own story and experience but do not invalidate others.
8. Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses.
9. Acknowledge the impact of saying something that hurts someone else, even if it is unintended.
10. Participate to the fullest of your ability.

Each person is primarily responsible for his or her own safe conduct, as well as contributing to the welfare of the entire group. Please report any issues to the faculty prior to leaving and during this trip. Before the trip leaves, and in each field area, the leaders will brief the participants on the expected and potential hazardous situations and conditions.
● If you are uncomfortable with any aspect of the field location please contact Dr. Giorgis, a TA, or another trip leader (who you are comfortable speaking to). We may be present in a location that has a different geography, climate, culture, race/ethnicity, and history from what you are used to. Be respectful of these differences, mindful of the challenges and risks that they might impose, but also recognize the growth opportunities that they provide.

● If you are not comfortable participating in any of the particular activities for any reason, you are encouraged to notify Dr. Giorgis, a TA, or another trip leader. There are no negative implications for this decision.

● If you become uncomfortable with the actions or behavior of your fellow participants, please notify Dr. Giorgis, a TA, or another trip leader (who you are comfortable speaking to). Your concerns will be kept confidential and actions will be taken to remedy the situation.

● If you become uncomfortable with the actions or behavior of one of the instructors, please contact one of the other instructors at the earliest convenient time. Your identity and your concerns will be kept confidential and actions will be taken to remedy the situation.

Section A. Personal Conduct & Grounds for Dismissal

Objectives of Section A:

● To mitigate risk associated with personal conduct violations.
● To remove barriers to student participation related to negative interpersonal interactions, illegal activity, reckless behavior, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Link to SUNY Geneseo Student Code of Conduct: https://www.geneseo.edu/handbook/student-code-conduct

1. Avoid any behavior in the field (e.g., running & jumping over gullies, wandering away from the group, etc.) or at camp that compromises your safety and/or that of others on the trip. If your behavior becomes a significant problem, you will be dismissed from the trip and will be responsible for your own transportation home. **Injuries when not in the field:** Believe it or not, the most serious injuries on trips such as these generally do not occur in the field where participants are fully aware. On the contrary, most field injuries occur when relaxing (e.g., playing ultimate Frisbee, soccer, mountain biking or even walking back to camp). So, please be careful. Remember that you've been working hard and are probably more tired than you realize.

2. In general, alcohol, drugs, and physical activity don't mix very well. Depending upon policies at destinations and/or campgrounds, alcohol may be banned entirely at discretion of trip leaders. You will be dismissed from the trip (and fail the course) and will be responsible for your own transportation home if alcohol consumption limits your ability to participate and/or becomes a hazard to you or your classmates. **The use and/or possession of illegal drugs will not be permitted.** If you violate this policy, you will be dismissed from the trip (and fail the course) and will be responsible for your own transportation home.

3. All field trips in the Department of Geological Sciences are firearms, explosives, firebombs, or other destructive devices/weapons free. Faculty have the responsibility and discretion to assess
what constitutes a weapon. A student or students violating this rule will be required to leave the field trip and return home at their own expense.

4. Authorized drivers are individuals cleared to drive specified vehicles by SUNY Geneseo. Drivers must immediately inform SUNY Geneseo if they receive a suspension, probation, cancellation, or disqualification of his/her driver’s license. Qualification to operate vans for college sanctioned events does not give any individual the right to drive a vehicle. The field trip leader will use his/her discretion in deciding whether any qualified students will be needed to drive the vehicle, and this will be decided before the start of the trip.

5. The field trip leader will hold all vehicle keys during off hours.

6. Students should not assume that sleeping in the vehicle overnight is permitted.

7. The SUNY Geneseo policy of a smoke-free environment is expected on the trip. Students will not be permitted to smoke in the vehicles, inside facilities or tents, or when they are with the group.

8. Field trip participants will take part in activities of the field trip group or one of the field trip subgroups at all times. Permission for exceptions to this rule must be obtained from the field trip leaders. Students must abide by the class schedule and be on time when leaving for or returning from the field.

9. Field trip leaders will make the final decision on whether any proposed activity is appropriate or not, and participants will abide by that decision.

10. When students return from a field trip, each person will be responsible for helping to clean the vehicles, and the equipment and return the equipment to its proper spot in the storeroom.

11. All persons on field trips must show respect to all camp and living facility staff and the inhabitants of other nearby campsites and abide by the 10:00 p.m. ‘quiet time’ rule in camp. Also, all persons must fulfill all camp responsibilities, including kitchen crew duties and camp clean-ups.

12. All persons must treat the living areas, field areas, and field trip destinations respectfully (pick up trash, no graffiti, be kind to wildlife, etc.)

13. All participants must treat each other, and all they come in contact with, professionally and respectfully, abiding by the SUNY Geneseo code of conduct. All persons must behave sensibly and with sensitivity to the social and cultural norms of the people with whom we are interacting. Failure to abide by these rules is grounds for dismissal from the field trip at any time and return home at the student’s own expense.

Responding to Health and Safety Issues

The health and safety of all participants in its programs is the primary concern of the Department of Geological Sciences. Faculty member(s) leading the field trip carry First Aid kits, and any Health and Safety concerns should be relayed to them immediately. Faculty will respond by dealing with the medical issue, and enacting Health and Safety protocols that involve written documentation of the incident.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, knowingly providing false information, plagiarizing, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. See Page 43 of the College’s Code of Conduct for comprehensive policy. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the relevant campus authorities.

ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUG USE, AND FIREARMS POLICY
Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

The State University of New York College at Geneseo certifies it is in compliance with Public Law 101-226, The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989. To this end, the College has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees.

The rights and privileges exercised by any person are always a function of relationships with others. The College at Geneseo condemns the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs on College property or as any part of College sponsored activities. To this end, the College will enforce the Student Code of Conduct and take appropriate conduct action when violations occur. In addition, criminal action will be taken when appropriate. Loss of privilege, specified conduct requirements, or separation from the College may be imposed on any student whose conduct on or off campus adversely affects the academic community, particularly as it shows failure to accept responsibility for the welfare of one’s self and other persons.

Firearms and Explosives:

Possession, use, or storing on campus of firearms (including but not limited to compressed air guns, airsoft guns, pellet, or BB guns), dangerous weapons, dangerous chemicals, martial arts weapons (excluding those used by registered student organizations and that have been modified for use for practice, approved by the University Police Department, registered with the Department of Student Life, and stored securely at an approved oncampus location), explosive devices of any description, knives (excluding standard kitchen knives or folding pocket knives), or fireworks is prohibited.

POLICY PROHIBITING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual Violence

In accordance with SUNY policies on sexual violence, Article 129 of the Education Law and the Violence Against Women Act, SUNY Geneseo will adhere to the following policies, procedures, and definitions in cases of sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct cases include dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, stalking, and sexual harassment that fall outside the scope of the College's Title IX Grievance policy. For allegations that meet geographic scope and definition of sexual harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education on May 19, 2020, Geneseo's Title IX Grievance policy and procedures will apply.

Sexual misconduct is the term used by the College to encompass non-consensual sexual behavior, including sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, and sexual exploitation. These are all forms of unwanted actual or attempted sexual activity and are violations of the College’s Student Code of Conduct. Sexual assault is defined as a physical sexual act or acts committed against a person’s will and consent, or when a person is incapable of giving active affirmative consent, incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct, or incapable of declining participation in, or communicating unwillingness to engage in, a sexual act or acts. Sexual assault is an extreme form of sexual harassment.* Sexual assault includes what is commonly known as “rape,” whether forcible or non-forcible, including what is commonly called “date rape” and “acquaintance rape,” fondling, statutory rape, and incest. For statutory rape, the age of consent in New York State is 17 years old. Sexual assault can
be committed by anyone, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Nothing contained in this definition shall be construed to limit or conflict with the sex offenses enumerated in Article 130 of the New York State Penal Law, which shall be the guiding reference in determining if alleged conduct is consistent with the definition of sexual assault.

Sexual Harassment

SUNY Geneseo seeks to create and maintain an educational environment in which all members of the College community are free to pursue their educational goals. Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of the law (Sec. 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act as amended, Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, and the New York State Human Rights Law) and will not be tolerated in the Campus community of SUNY Geneseo. The College will not condone actions and words that a reasonable person would regard as sexually harassing. It is the responsibility of every administrator, supervisor, student, and faculty member to create and maintain an environment that is free of discrimination and allows full access and opportunity for participation to all members of the College community. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual attention, unwanted verbal or physical sexual advance, request for sexual favors, sexually explicit derogatory statement, or sexually discriminatory remark made by someone within the College Community, which is offensive or objectionable to the recipient (including causing discomfort and humiliation), and when:

1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment, education, or grade;
2. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting the individual;
3. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic or work performance; or
4. such conduct has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.

If Sexual Violence or Sexual Harassment happens immediately talk with faculty member(s) leading the field trip or other staff members on the trip, or any of the contacts listed below, and/or the police, where you are. Any one of these contacts can begin the process of getting help. Keep the attached list of names and telephone numbers of these people.

As hard as it is to raise an issue of sexual violence or sexual harassment when you are in a small community in an isolated area, please alert those in authority about the issue. Don’t keep it to yourself. Remember that you may need medical care. Your faculty member(s) leading the field trip will help locate local medical, legal and safety resources.

If reported to the faculty in charge, we will work with you to get help and to inform you of your options for reporting within SUNY Geneseo or to the police. All employees of SUNY Geneseo, except designated confidential sources, are Responsible employees and must promptly report incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment to the SUNY Geneseo Title IX Office.

You may make a report of sexual assault or sexual harassment at any time, including after the field trip is concluded. In addition to the other options identified in this policy, you may make a formal written
complaint to the Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences or to other responsible officials at SUNY Geneseo.

**Contact Information Related to Sexual Harassment or Sexual Assault**

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of sexual harassment or sexual violence, including sexual assault or rape, you are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the:

*Make a report to an employee with the authority to address complaints including:*

- File a report with the Title IX Coordinator, Marcus Foster at 585-245-5023 or (585) 376-0759 (24/7) or mfoster@geneseo.edu.
- File an online Title IX Incident Report.
- The Student Conduct Office 585-245-5714,
- The Office of Human Resources, 585-245-5616
- Local Police Department
- Geneseo Police Department

*Other resources for survivors:*

- **RESTORE: Sexual Assault Services:** 24/7 Hour Hotline: 1-800-527-1757 (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, & Wyoming Counties)
- **RAINN** (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) - 24/7 hotline: 800-656-4673
- **The Trevor Project** Long-running, 24/7 suicide prevention crisis hotline, specific to the LGBT community, but it offers other resources also, such as the LGBT safe space social networking site, TrevorSpace - 24/7 hotline: 1-866-488-7386, via chat, or by texting START to 678-678.
- **National LGBT Help Center** offers free and confidential peer support and local resource database.

**BIAS CRIMES**

It is a State University of New York - College at Geneseo Police mandate to protect all members of 91 the Geneseo community by preventing and prosecuting bias or hate crimes that occur within the campus’s jurisdiction. Bias crimes, also called hate crimes or bias-related crimes, are criminal activities motivated by the perpetrator's bias or attitude against an individual victim or group based on perceived or actual personal characteristics, such as race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Bias/hate crimes have received renewed attention in recent years, particularly since the passage of the federal Hate/Bias Crime Reporting Act of 1990 and the New York State Hate Crimes Act of 2000 (Penal Law Article 485). For a copy of the New York law, see Appendix H. Penalties for bias crimes are very serious and range from fines to imprisonment for lengthy periods, depending on the nature of the underlying criminal offense, the use of violence or previous convictions of the offender. Perpetrators who are students will also be subject to campus conduct procedures where sanctions including dismissal are possible.

If a bias incident occurs immediately with faculty member(s) leading the field trip or other staff members on the trip, or any of the contacts listed below, and/or the police, where you are. Any one of these contacts can begin the process of getting help and support. Keep the attached list of names and telephone numbers of these people.
You may make a report of a bias incident at any time, including after the field trip is concluded. In addition to the other options identified in this policy, you may make a formal written complaint to the Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences or to other responsible officials at SUNY Geneseo.

- To report a Bias Related incident: Use the form at the following link: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SUNYGeneseo&layout_id=5
- Alternatively you may contact any of the following members of the bias prevention response team:
  - Sasha Eloi-Evans; s eloievans@geneseo.edu; Director of Multicultural Programs and Services
  - Sarah Frank; frank@geneseo.edu; Director of Residence Life
  - robbie routenberg; routenberg@geneseo.edu; Chief Diversity Officer

Section B. Physical Health, Mental Health & Environmental Conditions

Objective of Section B:

- To minimize risk associated with physical health/fitness, abilities/disabilities, mental health, or environmental conditions (e.g. weather, climate) at the field site and in the living spaces.
- To remove barriers to student participation based on physical health, mental health, and environmental factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Associated Hazards</th>
<th>Mitigation of Hazards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insurance:</strong> Determine the scope of your health coverage. You are responsible for all medical &amp; dental expenses – Geneseo does not supply insurance coverage for students and takes no responsibility for medical expenses incurred by students during field trips.</td>
<td>Be sure to carry contact information for your insurance carrier. Depending on the nature of your coverage, you may have to pay for care in advance and then seek reimbursement from your insurance carrier at a later date.</td>
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### Physical and Mental Health

If you haven’t visited your physician recently, we suggest that you do before the trip.

Minor Physical and Mental health issues may be amplified during trips like this students should consult with their health care providers in advance of the trip.

Major health issues or physical disabilities may limit you from participating in some activities. The faculty will work with you, with your doctors permission, to develop a plan to make all field sites/locations/learning objectives accessible.

Examples of situations that may present mental health challenges: 1) You will be asked to work and live in close proximity with students and faculty under unique field conditions, 2) You will be away from support structures at home, 3) You will not have full control over your daily routine.

### Medications

Persons under medical care or taking daily medications are advised to consult with their physician prior to the trip. Make sure all regular medications are fully disclosed in the Personal Medical Assessment form and notify Dr. Giorgis of any special medications you may be taking before any emergency situation arises. You should have shots for tetanus if not currently protected.

### Allergies

Persons with known dangerous allergies to insect bites, foods, etc. must fully disclose this information in the Personal Medical Assessment. Please make sure to remind Dr. Giorgis on the first day of the trip so a face can be associated with the name on the form & that the appropriate care can be taken of you in the event of an emergency.

### Mental Health Issues

Please discuss your needs with your local physician, your family, and friends. Also, please stay in contact with the faculty who can help mitigate issues as they arise. Relaxation days are scheduled during the trip but students must feel free to take a mental health break if needed.
| **Poor physical conditioning:** |  | **Fitness:** Participants should determine their ability to handle the long periods of low to moderate levels of exertion required to access much of the field area. Vertical changes in elevation can be up to 1500 feet starting at a base elevation of 3000 feet above sea level. During the trip, get adequate rest. |
| Poor physical conditioning: may lead to overexertion and severe fatigue that can exacerbate pre-existing medical conditions and contribute to accidents. As detailed in the attached form, participants with certain serious medical conditions must check with their physician or health services department prior to attending this field trip. | Slips and falls associated with fatigue. Muscle injuries, sprains, broken bones. |  |

| **Fitness:** |  | **Dehydration:** Drink a minimum of 2-3 liters of water each day in the field. Drink small amounts throughout the day. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | **Additional/Related Activities.** Under all conditions where a student may feel uncomfortable or is unable to perform the field activity, a faculty member will provide a local activity/field discussion/or experience to mitigate student risk. The preference is to include all students in this activity, replacing original activity, if this is reasonable and can meet similar learning outcomes. |

| **Expect cool to moderate temperatures:** |  | **Hypothermia & frostbite** |
| Expect cool to moderate temperatures: Average temperatures range from approximately 30°F in the evenings to the 70°F during the day. Evenings are cool, but be prepared for nighttime temperatures that can drop to as low as ~20 °F. |  | Dress in layers. A base of lightweight long underwear is suggested. Synthetic short and long-sleeved shirts, wool socks, long pants, lightweight fleece vests/jackets, sweatshirts, heavier down/synthetic jackets, and a windproof outer layer. Knit hats are also useful. While camping, sleeping bags and liners rated to sub-freezing temperatures are required. Temperature conditions at night may fall below 32 degrees F. |


| **Sun exposure**: The thinner atmosphere at high altitude filters less UV light and thus predisposes one to sunburn and can be hard on your eyes. | **Sunburn, snow blindness** | **Sun block is mandatory for those with sensitive skin and should be used by all. People who do not usually burn are more apt to get caught because they do not take necessary precautions. Wear wide-brimmed hats, pants, and light shirts to keep cool and prevent sunburn.**

Wearing UV filtering sunglasses will protect your eyes from snow blindness. Contact lenses can be troublesome in the field because of dust and low humidity. If you prefer contact lenses, bring lots of lens solution and a backup pair of glasses. It is important to wear eye protection (glasses, goggles, sunglasses, etc.) in the field to protect your eyes when you (or those around you) are breaking rocks. |

| **Dehydration**: develops quickly in the desert because of the very low relative humidity and intense sunshine in combination with intense physical activity. | **Dehydration can cause fatigue, severe headaches, and result in heat exhaustion & sunstroke.** | **Always drink enough water to cause the need for urination at least every three hours while at camp. While in the field, students should drink a minimum of two to three liters of water per day. Drink small amounts of water at a time throughout the day.** |
**High altitude:** Altitude sickness is a syndrome with potentially incapacitating symptoms. Although it generally only occurs when one sleeps at altitude above 8,000 ft (2,500 m), students may develop symptoms.

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<th>Frequent symptoms are headaches, nausea, insomnia, extreme fatigue, listlessness, lack of appetite, and light-headedness.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Generally, symptoms will improve with rest and fluids in 24 to 48 hours. Report any persistent symptoms to the instructors. Alcohol, tranquilizers, sleep medication, and antihistamines may make altitude sickness worse.</td>
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**Animals:** Venomous rattlesnakes are common at lower elevations, but they are timid, avoid people, and rarely bite. Stinging insects such as hornets, wasps and bees are present. Venomous spiders and scorpions are present in portions of the the Mojave and Death Valley.

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<tr>
<th>You may have allergic reactions to animal or insect bites or stings.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Do not leave your boots outside your tent at night. Check boots before putting them on. Turn rocks over with your hammer rather than your hands.</td>
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</table>

Your chances of being bitten by a snake become remote when wearing sturdy, over-ankle boots and by not putting your hands (or any other part of your body) in places you cannot see. Leave the snakes alone – a little fear is a very healthy thing. If you should be bitten, make sure the snake was a rattlesnake before doing anything. If it was a rattlesnake: (1) Slow down circulation and be as inactive as possible. If possible, don't run or walk, and have someone assist you to a vehicle. Allow the wound to bleed freely. (2) Have someone get you to a doctor as soon as possible. Make sure the doctor checks for reaction to horse-serum, if necessary.
Vegetation: comprises a typical high-desert/steppe assemblage (sage, pine, cactus, greasewood), so expect to encounter thorny brush and cacti.

Rash and/or puncture wounds which can become infected.

Watch closely where you step, place your hands, and sit. Carefully remove spines or thorns that cause punctures, clean the wound and monitor for infection.

Section C. Daily Activities

Objective of Section C:

- Minimize risk associated with faculty-guided, work-related activities at individual field sites.
- Remove barriers associated with a lack of local safety awareness, misconceptions of risk, lack of field preparation.

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<th>Considerations</th>
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<th>Mitigation of Hazards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hikes: will be up to 5 miles in length with up to 1500 ft of gain in elevation. Hikes will routinely venture onto uneven surfaces (unmaintained trails).</td>
<td>Slip, trip, and fall hazards are extremely common, especially along trails.</td>
<td>Boots are required in the field at all times. Only boots with sturdy soles, good tread, and leather (or equivalently) uppers are capable of providing protection against water, mud, and sharp rocks. Participant without the required footwear will not be allowed in the field. Please contact an instructor, ideally well in advance of the trip, if you have any questions regarding the field shoe policy. We can make recommendations, both on quality and price. Walking poles, long pants, and/or long sleeved shirts can also be helpful.</td>
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Virtual trips and/or field guides: Depending on the location, the faculty will provide field guides and/or a pre-trip virtual experience that will give you some understanding of the
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<th><strong>Unsafe cliffs, overhangs, and steep slopes</strong> are common in our field areas.</th>
<th>Loose rocks and overhanging rocks are uncommon along trails, but to exist.</th>
<th>Stay away from hazardous surfaces. Be aware of people above. Avoid climbing when people are below you.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breaking rocks</strong>: it may be necessary to break rocks at several locations. Please note that hammers are not allowed in parks.</td>
<td>Rock chips in eyes, crushing trauma.</td>
<td>Never use another hammer as a chisel. Don't hit rocks near anyone else - turn away from others &amp; always announce to those around you that you plan to use your hammer! Always use safety glasses (e.g., shatter resistant sunglasses) when hammering.</td>
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**Section D. Transportation**

**Objective of Section D:**

- *Minimize risk to passengers and drivers associated with variable driving conditions and van safety.*

**Considerations:** Transportation is our most significant hazard. We will drive hundreds of freeway and off road miles during this trip. Drivers have a great responsibility and must be extremely vigilant and careful – the lives of all of the passengers, members of the caravan, and the public at large are in their hands.

**Associated Hazards**
- **Driver-related hazards**: getting lost, fatigue, distractions, and inattention during driving are significant hazards
- **Flat tires**: are a common potential hazard.
- **Car-person collisions**: several activities require work along busy roadways.

### Mitigation of Hazards
1. All participants must pay careful attention to safety briefings by the instructors. It is your responsibility to be fully informed of potential hazards associated with use of vehicles.
2. Passengers must never interfere with the driver’s ability to operate the vehicle safely.
3. Passengers riding shotgun should never sleep and should help keep drivers awake and aware.
4. Personnel driving university vehicles must first satisfy all the driver requirements outlined by our university.
5. Before driving, drivers should take whatever time needed to familiarize themselves with their vehicle and routes.
6. Participants must wear high-visibility clothing (and/or safety vests if provided) when working along roadways and bike trails.
7. Read, understand, and follow the procedures in the Guidelines for Driving University Vehicles below

### Guidelines for Driving University Vehicles

The following guidelines regarding the use of university vehicles must be read, understood, and followed at all times.

#### For All Vehicle Occupants

1. **University vehicles**: University vehicles include "any vehicle owned, rented, leased, or otherwise provided to affiliates of SUNY Geneseo for use in conducting official business."
2. **Safety restraints**: Safety restraints (seat belts, both lap and shoulder) must be worn by everyone whenever a vehicle is in motion.
3. **Keep Vehicles Clean**: Regularly remove trash. Loose bottles, rocks and materials on the floor are significant hazards to safe vehicle operation. Whenever possible, maintain the driver’s ability to see out of the rear window when packing the vehicles.
4. **Hazardous materials** (e.g., corrosives, explosives, compressed gases, etc.) must not be transported in a university vehicle unless they have been packaged as prescribed by applicable state and federal regulations. The driver must be informed before the hazardous material is loaded for transport.
5. **Alcohol consumption** in any university vehicle is strictly prohibited. Consumption of alcohol in a university vehicle will result in dismissal from the trip (and failure of the course) and you will be responsible for your own transportation home.

#### For Drivers

1. **Authorized driver**: Authorized drivers are individuals cleared to drive specified vehicles by SUNY Geneseo. Drivers must immediately inform SUNY Geneseo if they receive a suspension, probation, cancellation, or disqualification of his/her driver's license.
2. **Traffic Laws & Speed**: Authorized drivers are subject to all traffic laws and are financially responsible for any traffic citations. In addition to posted limits, drivers must operate at speeds suitable for vehicle, road, traffic, and weather conditions. Where vision is restricted, drivers must slow to a speed that will permit the safe negotiation of curves, hills, or intersections.

3. **Fatigue**: Driver fatigue is a leading cause of fatal accidents. Requests for breaks or driver swaps have priority over any itinerary.

4. **Caravan Driving**: Caravan Driving is among the most dangerous activities on a field trip. To help mitigate this hazard, please follow these guidelines:
   - Keep to the **RIGHT** on all roadways. Do not linger in the fast lane – use it only to pass.
   - **Do not pass the lead vehicle**. Unless safety dictates otherwise, maintain your position in the line of vehicles.
   - **Do not worry about “keeping up”** with the vehicle ahead of you – instead, slow to maintain visual contact with the vehicle behind you.
   - **Distractions**: Avoid distractions. The use of cellular telephones and iPods, etc. while driving are not permitted (even with a “hands-free” device), except in immediate emergency situations. The person sitting in the “shotgun” seat should assist drivers with these functions. The volume of music should not exceed a threshold of 70 db - if people have to raise their voices to be heard - the music is too loud (90db is the threshold where it becomes necessary to wear ear protection to prevent damage to hearing).
   - **Radios**: Two-way radios are reserved for trip-related communications – they are not toys. Unless a driver’s radio is equipped with a remote speaker mic., s/he should have the shotgun handle radio traffic. It is the driver’s responsibility to maintain their radio and to make sure it is regularly charged.
   - **Inspections**: Drivers are responsible for thoroughly inspecting their vehicle prior to initial use and regularly thereafter for unsafe conditions (lights, brakes, windshield wipers, windshield washer fluid) or damage. Drivers must immediately report vehicles that are damaged or in an unsafe condition.

5. **Vehicle Trouble**: If you experience a flat tire or other vehicle malfunction that requires leaving the roadway, pull to the right shoulder – never stop in the center median. Carefully pull off as far as possible, but do not go over the shoulder. If possible, park on a hard (paved) surface.

6. **Accidents**: Accidents involving any vehicle (university or private) during a field trip must be reported according to relevant accident reporting guidelines. The instructor must be notified immediately.

7. **DUI**: Use of university vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (including prescription drugs that may impair the ability of the driver) is prohibited.

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**Section E. General information regarding the Field Locations and Personal Safety**

**Objective of Section E**: We are collaborating with SUNY Geneseo PD to develop policy for working with local law enforcement, de-escalation, and performing at-risk/racialized violence site assessment.

- **Minimize risk associated with social/cultural misconceptions and negative social/cultural interactions (e.g. racism, sexism, gender biases and discrimination)** between students, faculty, and with local population.
• Remove barriers to students who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe attending the trip based on the potential for negative cultural/societal interactions (e.g. racism, sexism, gender biases and discrimination) by providing pre-trip trainings, context of the local demographics, and the cultural/historical underpinnings of that shaped the society.

**Demographics:**

The trip will take place in Death Valley and the Mojave desert, CA. We will largely be travelling throughout Inyo County, CA. Inyo County is extremely rural and is isolated from most urban or suburban services.

From the census bureau, the population in Inyo county is 18,039 people (~1.8/sq. mile), 60.1% White, 23.4% Hispanic/Latino, 13.% American Indian, 1.7% Asian, 1.2% Black/African American.

26% of the population is under 18 years. 23% of the population is about 65 years.

The median household income of the region is $57,316. 11.7% of the population lives below the poverty line.

The primary businesses in the region include agriculture, service, mining, and military.

**Visiting Towns, Suburban, and Urban Communities:** Multiple small towns and cities are scattered throughout the area and will be briefly visited for gas, bathroom, food, and medical services. The smallest town locations include (but may not be limited to) Baker, Shoshone, Kelso, and Lone Pine. The population of these towns are all under 2,000 people. Larger urban and suburban environments with populations in excess of 100,000 people will be briefly visited and include Las Vegas, NV, Barstow, CA, and Victorville, CA. We will be staying on or near the “strip” in Vegas at the end of our trip.

There is a large Native American population in the region. The tribes represented include the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, the Bishop Tribe, the Timbi-Sha Shoshone Tribe, the Fort Independence Community of Paiute, and Lone Pine tribe. The trip will take us through these tribal lands. All tribal laws, rules, and customs will be respected at all times.

There is also a strong Hispanic (Latinx) community throughout all of southern California. Most of the Latinx population preceded white settlers to this region and are descendants of indigenous peoples of North and Central America and Spanish migrants.

Modern white populations include both descendants of early 19th century miners and migrants to the region. More recent (20th century) migration has come from mid-western and eastern states.

Military personnel derive from across the US. Military bases in the region, U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake is a major one in the Inyo county area.

The Black/African American population is severely under-represented in the desert and rural communities of southern, CA.

The Asian demographic is under-represented relative to urban centers in southern California. However, this region of California holds the infamous distinction of housing the World War 2 Japanese American internment camp at Manzanar, CA (near Independence, CA). The Manzanar National Historic site will be visited on the trip.
Provide community-based-specific resources for future field plans…

Hate Crime Statistics

https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/hate-crimes


**Mitigation of Incidents through Awareness and Training**

1. Pre-trip analysis and seminar presentations describing local laws, style of law enforcement, local media stories relevant to bias-related incidents in the area.
2. All emergency contact information, relevant laws, rules that are unique to location are published in the field guide.
3. Local law enforcement contacts made for field sites where relevant. Local emergency contact numbers unique to location are available in the field guide.
4. Seminar 1 and 2 pre-trip presentation of local region including historical & cultural discussions (cultural competency training that is relevant to the local region).
5. Pre-trip self-reflective writing assignment in Seminar 1 and 2 - reflect on your understanding of local culture, concern, and biases. Reflect on your field concerns and trip concerns.
6. Seminar 1 and 2 surveys and discussions among students and faculty regarding perceptions and misconceptions of regional culture. Discussions of the self reflection.
7. Reporting: all students should report all bias-related incidents to a faculty member with whom they feel comfortable. If a faculty member is not suitable, please report to the Dean of Students (585-245-5706) and/or the Title IX Office (585-245-5023)

**SECTION F: Living Conditions (NOTE: THIS IS A WORK IN PROGRESS AND IS INCOMPLETE - we are working with the Title IX office and Residential Life to develop this section)**

**Objective of Section F:**

- Minimize risks and set expectations for the challenges and services available for living in the field.
- Remove barriers associated with uncomfortable living arrangements (as much as is reasonable) and expectations/misconceptions of specific services (e.g. showers, wifi, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Considerations</th>
<th>Associated Risks</th>
<th>Mitigation of Incidences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Communal living and dining *Sharing tents/rooms/beds *Hygiene and lack of availability of hair care products *remote locations may result in the loss of cellular service and WIFI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 2: Required Actions

Please detach, complete, and submit this page and the following page before the deadline according to the instructions outlined below. Your enrollment in the program is contingent upon the completion of the following five steps:

1. **Complete** the *Personal Medical Assessment* form provided.
2. **Read and understand** all of the sections in the *Statement of Hazards & Standards of Conduct* (pages 1-7 of this document).
3. **Sign** the *Acknowledgement* (this page) indicating that you received, read, and understand the *Statement of Hazards & Standards of Conduct*.
4. **Read and sign** the official *General Liability Waiver* form (next page).
5. **Submit** the (1) signed *Acknowledgement*, (2) signed *General Liability Waiver*, and (3) *Personal Medical Assessment* to Dr. Giorgis no later than Friday **December 7, 2018** (the last day of seminar).

Part 3: Acknowledgment

- I here certify that I have received, read, and understand the contents of the Statement of Hazards & Standards of Conduct that describes the common environmental, health, and safety hazards, the expected standards of conduct, and the ramifications of policy violations during the field course.
- I understand the safety precautions needed to minimize the risk to myself and other participants. I agree to follow the required safety guidelines and briefings and certify, to the best of my knowledge, that I am physically capable of participating in the field course.
- I consent to the limited release of the information in my Personal Medical Assessment to the instructors of the field course for the purpose of preparing for and conducting course-related activities and in the event of an Emergency.
- I consent to the retention of this Acknowledgment by the Directors of the field course so long as evidence of the consents and acknowledgments provided herein are required.

Signature of Participant:
Date: _______________________

Name (printed): __________________________________________________

If the Participant is under the age of 18, this form must also be signed by a legal Guardian.

Signature of Legal Guardian:

________________________________________________________

Date: _______________________

Name (printed): __________________________________________________

Part 4: General Liability Waiver for Participants and Volunteers

GSCI 394: Geology Capstone Field Experience

Mojave Desert and Death Valley, Southern California

January 3, 2019 to January 18, 2019

Participant Release Form

Whereas, the undersigned, ___________________________(participant name), hereafter called ‘Participant’ desires to have the privileges of participation in the ___________________________(event and location).
Therefore, it is agreed as follows:

That in consideration of the State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY-Geneseo) allowing the privileges of participation, subject to its rules and regulations,

The Participant (undersigned on behalf of themselves and guardian or parent, if under 18) does hereby voluntarily assume all risks of accident or damage to their person or property participating in said event and does hereby release and discharge SUNY Geneseo, and its owners or agents from every claim, liability or demand of any kind however caused for or on account of the personal injury or damage of any kind sustained by said participant while participating in said event.

The Participant further promises to indemnify and forever save harmless SUNY Geneseo, and its owners or agents from every claim, liability or demand of any kind however caused, for or on account of the personal injury or damage of any kind sustained by said participant, if enrolled in said event.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, SUNY Geneseo, and its owners or agents agree that, to the extent permitted by law, it will be responsible for, if assessed by a court of competent jurisdiction, any and all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, suits or judgments, and any and all costs and expenses including but not limited to, reasonable counsel fees and disbursements, arising from the negligence of its owners or agents as provided by law.

In the event of an accident, the participant’s medical coverage, either personal coverage or the participant medical insurance plan, shall respond. Additionally, if a claim is made of a personal liability nature, personal homeowners and/or renter’s insurance should respond.

It is expressly understood that if said participant is permitted to participate in said event that such participation is subject to the rules and regulations of SUNY Geneseo, and that said participant is subject to the controls exercised by the persons in charge of said event.

Dated this _______ day of ______________, 20__.

________________________________________  __________________________________________
Participant Signature                          Parent/Guardian Signature (If participant is under 18)
PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE MUST HAVE PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE.