



BAJA SPRING BREAK IMMERSION

Application Form 2010

This 10-unit program includes an advanced writing course (ENVS 142B: Writing Natural History) and a Biology/Environmental Studies course (BIOL/ENVS 144: Natural History of Baja). The classes meet together (TuTh 1150-135 PM) in winter quarter. **Students must be enrolled in both classes to participate in the program, and are expected to "play full out" in both courses.** Students spend spring break writing about and investigating, by kayak, snorkel, and on foot, habitats in southern Baja, including one of the most amazing desert and marine ecosystems on the planet- the desert island Isla Espiritu Santo.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until course is full. Preference will be given to juniors and seniors majoring in Environmental Studies, Biology, or Environmental Science. **Please email completed application to John Farnsworth (jfarnsworth@scu.edu) AND Elizabeth Dahlhoff (edahlhoff@scu.edu).**

I. Personal and Contact Information

Name: _____ I.D. #: _____

Phone: _____ Preferred email: _____

Major: _____

Minor, concentration or emphasis (if applicable) _____

Graduating Class of (check one): _____ 2010 _____ 2011 _____ 2012

II. Experience. These questions are designed to get a sense of your academic background and experience with the types of activities we will be doing, especially during the Spring Break portion in Baja. We are interested in having a class full of students with a RANGE of experiences, so don't worry if you don't think you are giving the "right" answer- there is none. However, we want to make sure you are aware of what the program entails.

1. Have you ever traveled outside the United States? _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, where did you go, how long did you go, and in what context (family vacation, service trip, study abroad, etc)?

2. Do you speak Spanish? _____SI ___NO

If SI, what is your level of competency? (check one)

_____Native speaker

_____Fluent, non-native speaker

_____Functional, non-native speaker

_____Muy pocito (Uno mas cerveza por favor!)

3. Can you swim? _____YES _____NO

If YES, what is your level of comfort/experience with the OCEAN? (check one)

_____Merperson (experienced skin diver, SCUBA diver, surfer)

_____Sunshark (I go to the beach, I play in the waves, and have done some snorkeling or surfing)

_____Freshwater shark (Swim really well in a pool, but have little or no ocean experience)

_____Freshwater perch (I can hold my own in a pool; no experience with the ocean)

_____“Pup” fish (I wont drown, but water is not my favorite element)

4. Have you ever paddled a kayak or canoe? _____YES _____NO

If YES, what is your level of comfort/experience (check one)

_____Paddle master (any boat any time- bring it on!)

_____Cruiser (I have paddled an ocean kayak)

_____Duck (I have paddled a canoe or freshwater kayak, but never an ocean kayak)

5. Have you ever been camping or backpacking? _____YES _____NO

If YES, what amenities have you gone without for more than 24 hours? (check all that apply)

___Water for bathing _____warm water _____electricity

___Toilets that flush _____shampoo/soap _____Other_____

6. Have you ever been hiking? _____YES _____NO

If YES, what is your level of comfort/experience (check one)

_____Mountain goat (experienced backpacker and/or climber)

_____Coyote (I enjoy hiking, have done some; don't necessarily move fast or anything)

_____Willow (I like sitting by the water and getting my feet wet- little or no hiking experience)

7. What is your trophic level?

_____ Vegan _____ Vegetarian _____ Jack Vegetarian (eat some meat, fish) _____ Omnivore

8. Inside your trophic level, how open/flexible are you to unfamiliar food? Check the most appropriate category, and add comments as necessary.

___ I can and will eat anything.

___ I have an aversion to certain food types, but no allergies.

___ I have allergies to some foods. What are they? Are they severe?

III. Group dynamics and personal approach to challenging experiences. Spending 10 days with a bunch of people you don't know can be amazing, exhilarating, exasperating- a microcosm of life! We would like to get a sense of how you approach these adventures. Use as much space as you need.

9. Briefly describe your experience working in groups or teams. What is your style? What kind of people do you work well with? What kinds of people drive you nuts, if any?

10. What skills, personal attributes, experiences or approaches to life do you have that you think will contribute to this class to make it a success?

11. Aside from academics, what is one thing that you hope to get out of this program?