

Syllabus –PTYS 594

# Planetary Geology Field Studies

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**Times and locations:** All meetings in room 312 of the Kuiper building. The trip dates and preparation meetings vary each semester and are not planned until our first meeting. It is important to contact the instructor directly when you enroll so you can be added to our fieldtrip mailing list.

I have a general open-door policy, so you can stop by anytime. I'm not always available though, so email in advance to be sure of catching me.

**Course Website:**

Semester-specific and general information on the course will be posted on a class website at:

<https://pirlwww.lpl.arizona.edu/wiki/Fieldtrip>

**Scope of Course:**

Planetary surfaces sit at the interface between the planet's atmosphere and interior and are also often exposed to exogenic processes like impacts and space-weathering. This makes them very complex to understand, but also rich historical archives that record changing conditions on that planet over the course of solar system history.

In this class, we will visit terrestrial geologic sites that are analogs of sites on other planetary surfaces. Through first hand inspection and analysis of remote sensing data students will build geologic intuition. There are no course prerequisites and anyone may enroll (undergraduates must be seniors to enroll for credit).

**Course credit**

Everyone on the trip actually participates. This is the case whether they have any geologic background or not. This participation involves choosing a topic during the pre-trip meeting (most, but not all, topics are geological - there are cultural and ecological topics as well). After choosing the topic you will do some background reading and write a brief (2-3 pages) outline with whatever figures are needed. The best outlines make heavy use of bulleted lists and figures rather than large expanses of text. The style is free form, but each outline typically ends with the connection to planetary geology (e.g. where have these features been seen on other planets or what would it mean for a planet's history if such features were someday discovered there). It should take about one day to do the reading and write the outline.

This is a pass/fail one-unit course. A pass is earned by preparing the handout, participating in the trip and presenting your work in the field.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:**

At the University of Arizona we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to explore reasonable accommodation.

**Class Behavior Policy**

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

**Threatening Behavior Policy**

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

**Code of Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

**UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy**

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

**Subject to Change Statement**

Work and course requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor with proper notice to the students.