



2021 Catalina California Naturalist Online

Instructor

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Co-Instructor

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Course Start & End

03/11/2021

05/13/2021

CalNat Website

<http://calnat.ucanr.edu/>

Application and Registration

<https://catalinaconservancy.org>

Course Fee

\$240.00

Course Schedule

Weekly online
coursework

Weekly Thursday Zoom
meetings 6:00-7:30pm

Weekly assigned
independent field
activities

Course Overview

The UC California Naturalist Program (CalNat) seeks to foster a committed corps of naturalists and community scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. The UC California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California's natural communities. The course will combine a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.

Catalina Island Conservancy acknowledges that Catalina Island is the ancestral land of the Pimu Tongva and seeks to amplify the voices and knowledge of tribal community partners. The Catalina California Naturalist Course looks to facilitate naturalists continuing education and discovery of southern California's rare, coastal Mediterranean ecosystems. This course highlights these ecosystems through the lens of island biogeography and explores the familiar yet uniquely adapted world of the Channel Islands.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand what it means to be a naturalist.
- Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic, and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of California and Catalina Island.
- Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook and nature journal.
- Become proficient using iNaturalist to record nature observations.
- Apply knowledge of Catalina and Southern California to local and global environmental issues.

Course Requirements

- **Contact Time:** Each UC California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (coursework and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field. Due to Covid-19 social

distancing protocols that are in place classes will consist of weekly Zoom meetings and field time will be structured independent activities. Students can anticipate approximately a 4-hour commitment to the course each week. Eight hours of additional time required to be invested in capstone project can be logged as volunteer hours in the UC Volunteer Portal upon completion of the course.

- **Required Reading:** Read the entire book “The California Naturalist Handbook,” and assigned readings and activities that you will access through the Canvas web board. There will be weekly online quizzes and assignments to assess your completion of these readings and activities.
- **Class Attendance:** Live classes will take place every Thursday evening from 6:00-7:30pm PST using the Zoom platform. Attendance of at least eight of the ten live classes, will be required for certification. Classes will be supplemented with the ongoing Conservancy Last Friday Lecture Series during the 3rd and 8th week. Attendance is encouraged but not required.
- **Coursework and quizzes:** Students will need to complete all the online quizzes and assignments by their due dates. All course materials will be accessed through the Canvas web board. Students will receive an invitation to join the Canvas once accepted into the course. Introductory course material will be available in Canvas as soon as course invitation is accepted. The rest of the site will unlock the day of the first live class meeting March 11th, 2021. Students will be able to work ahead of schedule if there will be weeks with known prior obligations.
- **Field Trips:** This year, to align with continuing social distancing efforts, field experiences will be conducted independently. Students will be asked to complete your requirement of 8 total documented hours spent in nature through a combination of utilizing your nature journal, contributing to the class community science project, and viewing virtual guided excursions on the Island. Guest experts will join the instructor at different locations around Catalina to demonstrate topics on the landscape. All locations and trailheads will be accessible through hiking from the Conservancy’s main shuttle route so the trips can be re-created! Students will also be supplied with information for fieldtrips on the mainland that can connect you with Channel Islands natural history. There will also be an optional self-guided fieldtrip of the Conservancy’s properties on Catalina that you can take a part of as a part of this course through the AdventureLab app. More information will be available on the Canvas web board.
- **Capstone Project:** Participants are required to complete a Capstone Project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation,

Community Science or Program Support. The Capstone Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project that is done in conjunction with the Catalina Island Conservancy. **Participants must get pre-approval for Capstone Projects in the first two weeks of the course.** Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver and individual or group capstone presentations via Zoom (5-10 minutes long per person) during the final live class. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the capstone project and will add hours spent on the Capstone Project into the volunteer portal.

- **Office Hours:** The instructors will offer office hours in 15-minute time increments to guide students on their capstone projects.
- **Using a Field Notebook and Journal:** All participants are required to keep a nature journal (a place to thoughtfully transcribe your experiences) during the course. A field notebook (a place to jot quick notes) is encouraged to assist with your nature journaling but is not required. Students will be asked to designate a “sit-spot”, a location in proximity to your dwelling to spend time recording observations in or near nature for a minimum of 30 min each week, alternately utilizing prompts provided by the instructor and using the time to record freely. Journal entries will be shared during live classes. At least one entry will need to be made every week.
- **iNaturalist** Each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>) and adding at least three observation(s) to the course iNaturalist project. Search projects: CatCalNat. Students will be asked to share their iNaturalist handles with the class.
- **Class Citizen Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the citizen science project adopted by the class. In continuation of the experience that you will be getting on iNaturalist we will be participating in the City Nature Challenge (<https://citynaturechallenge.org>), a bioblitz organized by the LA Naturalist History Museum and the California Academy of Sciences. It will be your assignment during the week of April 30th through May 3rd to record as many species as you can! We will then come together during our live class on May 6th to help each other identify species that the algorithm in the app could not nail down.

Recommended Resources

- **CalNat YouTube Channel:** View videos from UC California Naturalist conferences, meetings, and more. The “Ecosystems of California” video series with Erika Zaveleta, is also available on the channel.
Url: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmObg>
- **CalNat Volunteer Portal Help:** There are resources available to help you familiarize with the UC California Naturalist volunteer portal and commonly used features. Check out our help guides, and videos geared toward users and program administrators. *Url:* http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/
- **Introduction to Nature Journaling:** An introductory workshop with John Muir Laws. What is nature journaling? How do you motivate yourself to get started and keep at it? What is a growth mindset and how does it change the way I approach nature journaling? How to set up your own nature journaling kit. *Url:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nndw2HQ7uA>

Course Materials

Required materials must be provided by student.

- **Required text:** The California Naturalist Handbook, Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, Adina Merenlender.
- **Required:** Access to internet connected computer or phone and an email account
- **Required:** Nature Journal
- **Required:** Pencil(s)
- **Recommended:** Hand lens (10x)
- **Recommended:** Binoculars
- **Provided:** Small field notebook

Guest Speaker Information:

Eliot Freutal- UCANR California Naturalist Program Community Education Specialist

Dr. Wendy Teeter- Archeologist, UCLA Fowler Museum, PCIAP

Cindi Alvitre- Professor of American Indian studies CSULB, Co-founder Ti'at Society, PCIAP

Craig Torres- Chia Café Collective

Last Friday Lecture Series- Dr. Nate Onderdonk Professor Dept. of Geological Sciences CSULB

Laura Minuto- Conservancy Conservation Operation Director

Deni Porej- Conservancy Conservation Science Director

Seth Kauppinen-Conservancy Native Plant Manager

Lauren Denhart- Conservancy Invasive Plant Manager

Emily Hamblen- Conservancy Wildlife Biologist

Peter Sharpe- Institute for Wildlife Studies/Conservancy Wildlife Biologist

Victoria Petryshyn- USC Faculty in Environmental studies

Last Friday Lecture Series- Bryan Cypher, Director and Research Ecologist, CSU-Stanislaus

Linda Chilton- Education Program Coordinator, USC Sea Grant Program

Class Schedule

Online Classes are on Thursdays, begin March 11th and end May 13th

*Quiz on Chapter reading

** Last Night Friday Lecture Series are from 5:30-6:30pm

Week #	Class Date	Where	Course Topic	Field School Guest Expert	Reading
1	03/11/2021	Online	Introduction and overview, Interpretation, Community Science	UC California Naturalist Representative	Chapters 1 & 8
2	03/18/2021	Online	Catalina Cultural History	Chia Café Collective and PCIAP	Assigned readings
3	03/25/2021	Online	Geology	Instructor led	Chapter 2*
3	03/26/2021		**Last Friday Lecture Series	Dr. Nate Onderdonk	
4	04/01/2021	Online	Water	Q&A with Laura Minuto	Chapter 3*
5	04/08/2021	Online	Endemic Plants of Catalina/Plant Adaptations/Fire Ecology	Q&A with Seth Kauppinen	Chapter 4*
6	04/15/2021	Online	Plants Forest Resources/Oak woodlands/Non-Native Herbivores/Invasive plants	Deni Porej and Lauren Denhart	Chapter 5*
7	04/22/2021	Online	Wildlife/ Evolution/Population Dynamics/Island Biogeography Earth Day!	Emily Hamblen and Peter Sharpe	Chapter 6*
8	04/29/2021	Online	Energy and Global Environmental Issues City Nature Challenge Bioblitz!	Victoria Petryshyn	Chapter 7*
8	04/30/2021	Online	**Last Friday Lecture Series	Bryan Cypher	
9	05/06/2021	Online	Marine Biology City Nature Challenge ID Party!	Linda Chilton	
10	05/13/2021	Online	Capstone Presentations		

Evaluation Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is highly encouraged. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

Volunteering: Participants are encouraged to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year to maintain their certification. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pins differ from year to year.

- Volunteer activities need to relate to California's natural or environmental history, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be UNPAID.
- All volunteering with the Conservancy goes toward your California Naturalist volunteer hours.
- Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the [UC Volunteer Portal](#). A welcome e-mail will be sent after completion of the course and upon certification as a California Naturalist.

Cancellation Policy

If unable to complete the current course registered for, then you will be eligible to enroll in the next scheduled course without additional fees. If the Conservancy cancels a class for any reason, a full refund will be given to all enrollees. Refunds may require four weeks for processing.

Registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that experience a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, that occurs before the halfway point of the course, may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund.

Course Credit

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through [UC Davis Extension](#) for an additional nominal fee. Graduates who expressed interest in this opportunity with their instructor will receive a communication from the UC California Naturalist program post-course with information on how to obtain the optional credits.

Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations in this class, you will need to notify Hillary Holt in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) upon request.

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees, purchasing books, and transportation for the field trips. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel or meals.