



**CATALINA ISLAND
CONSERVANCY™**
Conservation. Education. Recreation.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ California Naturalist Program

2022 CATALINA CALIFORNIA NATURALIST

Instructors

Hillary Holt
Maria Dominguez

Course Email

Naturalistonline@
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Course Schedule

03/01/22-04/19/22
Weekly Tuesday online
meetings 6:00-8:00pm

04/26/22
Online Capstone Project
Presentations

Field school on Catalina
Directed independent
excursions

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

Course Fee
\$200.00

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 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 Materials

Students are responsible for obtaining the required materials

- **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, Pencil(s)
- **Recommended:** Colored pencils, Hand lens (10x), Binoculars
- **Provided:** Small field notebook

Course Requirements

- **Contact Time:** Each UC California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of forty educational hours (coursework and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field. Students can anticipate a 4-hour commitment to the course each week. Eight hours of additional time investment required for the 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 Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00pm PST using the Zoom platform. Attendance of at least seven of the nine live classes, will be required for certification.
- **Coursework and quizzes:** Students will need to complete all the online quizzes and assignments by their due dates. All course materials can be accessed through the Canvas web board. Students will be able to work ahead of schedule if there will be weeks with known prior obligations.
- **Field experience:** 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 directed field experiences that students will carry-out independently on the mainland and/or on Catalina Island. Locations and trailheads on the Catalina Island will be accessible in Avalon Canyon or from the Conservancy's main shuttle route. 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 optional virtual guided excursions on the Island to view. Guest experts will join the instructor at different locations around Catalina to discuss topics on the landscape.

- **Capstone Project:** Participants are required to complete a Capstone Project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen 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 with a local conservation organization. The Conservancy will have limited opportunities to mentor capstone projects and will provide a list of suggested projects that would be helpful for the organization. **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 an individual or group capstone presentations via Zoom (5-10 minutes long per person) during the final virtual class. A minimum of 8 hours is required on the capstone project and can be added as volunteer hours into the volunteer portal.
- **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 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.
- **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 usernames with the class.
- **Class Community Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the community 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. We will conduct the BioBlitz together on Catalina during the On-Island field school.
- **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>

Online Class Schedule

Every Tuesday 03/01/2022-04/19/2022 from 6:00-8:00pm

Week #	Class Date	Where	Course Topic	Field School Guest Speaker	Reading/ Quiz
1	03/01/2022	Online	Introduction and overview	Cal Nat Staff Deni Porej	Ch. 1 Introduction
2	03/08/2022	Online	Traditional Ecological Knowledge Interpretation and Community Science	Indigenous Partner Conservancy Education Staff	Ch. 8 Interpretation, Collaboration, and Community Science
3	03/15/2022	Online	Geology	Nate Onderdonk	Ch. 2 Geology
4	03/22/2022	Online	Water	Laura Minuto	Ch. 3 Water
5	03/29/2021	Online	Endemic Plants of Catalina/Plant Adaptations/Fire Ecology	Seth Kauppinen	Ch. 4 Plants
6	04/05/2022	Online	Plants Forest Resources/Oak woodlands/Non-Native Herbivores/Invasive plants	Lauren Dennhardt	Ch. 5 Forest, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management
7	04/12/2022	Online	Wildlife/ Evolution/Population Dynamics/Island Biogeography	Emily Hamblen	Ch. 6 Wildlife
8	04/19/2022	Online	Energy and Global Environmental Issues Earth day	Dr. Victoria Petryshyn	Ch.7 Energy and Global and Environmental Issues
9	04/26/2022	Online	Capstone Presentations	Presentation schedule will be from 3:00-8:00pm.	Attendance for all presentations will not be required.

Guest Speaker Information:

Eliot Freutal- UCANR California Naturalist Program Community Education Specialist

Deni Porej- Conservancy Conservation Science Director

Gabe Robles- Consultant as member of Gabrielino-Tongva Nation

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

Desiree Martinez- President of Cogstone Resource Management, Inc., Pimu Catalina Island Archaeology Project

Dr. Nate Onderdonk Professor Dept. of Geological Sciences CSULB

Laura Minuto- Conservancy Conservation Operation Director

Seth Kauppinen-Conservancy Native Plant Manager

Lauren Dennhardt- Conservancy Invasive Plant Manager

Emily Hamblen- Conservancy Wildlife Biologist

Victoria Petryshyn- USC Faculty in Environmental studies

Linda Chilton- Education Program Coordinator, USC Sea Grant Program

Evaluation

Complete the online post-course evaluation survey. You will be provided a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

Volunteering: Participants need to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year to maintain their certification. Pins are awarded 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](#). You will receive a welcome e-mail 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 all enrollees will receive a full refund.

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, which 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 a chance 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.

If you are a Conservancy Staff member or Volunteer, please contact your department to find out about funding opportunities.