

Certified California Naturalist Course Requirements

Class Sessions & Field Trips

- Attend all class sessions (students can miss one class session and still meet course requirements by completing the assignments for the missed class). There will be 10 class sessions held once a week for 2.5 hours each, and each week there will be readings in the California Naturalist textbook to be done before class, and additional optional readings.
- There will be 4 field trips – students can miss one field trip and still meet course requirements. We will be carpooling when possible for field trips.

Readings & Homework

- Read the entire book “The California Naturalist Handbook”
- Complete assigned homework

Capstone

- Complete a capstone project approved by the instructor (apx. 8 hours time investment). The capstone is designed to provide a bridge from the class to service. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate, and on the final night of class will have presentations on the projects. Presentations will be 5 minutes long per person (so 15 minutes for a 3 person group) and are to summarize the work that the individual or group has done.

iNaturalist

- Log at least 1-3 observations in iNaturalist. We will go over the iNaturalist program in class. <http://www.inaturalist.org>

Field Notebooks

- Create a field notebook with entries from all field days and hopefully more.
- Go outside and observe nature.

General

- Participate in the citizen science project adopted by each class.
- Complete post-course evaluation survey.

Volunteering

- Consider and hopefully commit to volunteering at least 40 hours a year in environmental stewardship, education/interpretation, citizen science, and/or program support and record all hours of service in the UC Volunteer Management System (VMS), which will be covered in class.
- Here is the link to the VMS: <https://uccn.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>
- Criteria for California Naturalist volunteer service are that the activity needs to: relate to California’s natural or environmental cultural history, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be unpaid/volunteer.