

# ESCI 140: THE GEOLOGY OF DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

## Citrus College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2025
Credits:	2
Total Contact Hours:	36
Lecture Hours :	36
Lab Hours:	0
Hours Arranged:	0
Outside of Class Hours:	72
Total Student Learning Hours:	108
Strongly Recommended:	ENGL C1000.
Transferable to CSU:	Yes
Transferable to UC:	No
Grading Method:	Standard Letter, Pass/No Pass

## Catalog Course Description

A study of the geologic materials and processes in Eastern California with emphasis on Death Valley. The primary emphasis is on the unique geomorphology and tectonic history of this region. Course also includes the study of regional minerals and rocks, aeolian processes, and tectonic features. Includes a weekend trip to the region. A transportation/activities fee may be charged. 36 lecture hours.

## Course Objectives

- Describe the geologic features of Death Valley.
- Identify and evaluate the role of geologic processes in shaping desert landscapes.
- Identify tectonic features of the region.
- Identify geomorphologic features associated with desert regions and identify and the processes that created them.
- Describe the geologic history of the region.
- Identify the causes of climate change with the desert regions of Eastern California and Nevada.

## Major Course Content

1. Identification of Igneous Rocks, Metamorphic Rocks, and Minerals
2. Topographic and Geologic Maps
3. Plate Tectonics
4. Extrusive and Intrusive Processes
5. Erosional and Depositional Processes
6. Aeolian Processes
7. Geomorphology of Arid Landscapes
8. Geologic History of Eastern California

## Suggested Reading Other Than Required Textbook

Chapters pertaining to arid or extensional tectonic environments in any geology textbook within the college library.

## Examples of Required Writing Assignments

Students will be required to keep a scientific and photographic journal of their experiences in Death Valley National Park using proper geologic terminology. They will also complete geologic essays to be incorporated in their journal.

## Examples of Outside Assignments

Students are to write a scientific journal chronicling their study of Death Valley geomorphology and processes using proper geologic terms.

## Instruction Type(s)

Lecture