

Ge/ESE 298: Mentoring and Outreach for GO-Outdoors

Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology

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Course Description

This is a 3-credit, pass-no pass course that awards students credit for participating in outreach work via the GPS Outreach-Outdoors (GO-Outdoors) program. GO-Outdoors connects Caltech GPS scientists with local K-12 educators for accessible and inclusive place-based education opportunities. GO-Outdoors members work to create lesson plans, manage our website and resources, collaborate with educators and students in the Pasadena community, and facilitate lessons and field trips. More information on GO-Outdoors, including a recorded presentation describing our work, is available at go-outdoors.caltech.edu.

Students in Ge/ESE 298 will discuss the inequities in outdoor access, learn about place-based and inquiry-based learning, and apply these concepts to our outreach program. This course is highly student-led, and is designed to provide a space for collaboration and reflection in the process of outreach.

Course Welcome

Welcome to the fall 2021 offering of Ge/ESE 298! This course provides a space for students to work toward individual and group outreach goals in the GO-Outdoors program. We will create a collaborative, reflective, and inclusive environment to achieve our goals. Your work in this course is self- and group-motivated, and credit is earned on the basis of participation and reflection on your work.

In the spirit of the varied and collaborative work we will do in this class, this syllabus is only a starting point! We will devote time at the start of the term to develop and refine the way GO-Outdoors and this course are run, and set course goals that align with our individual and collective motivations.

Course Goals

Participants in Ge/ESE 298 will:

- Identify personal goals for their outreach work.
- Collaboratively develop goals for the GO-Outdoors program.
- Discuss the factors that contribute to inequities in outdoor access, and how GO-Outdoors can address these factors.
- Explain and apply the concepts of place-based and inquiry-based learning.
- Participate in self-motivated and collaborative work to build and carry out the GO-Outdoors program.

- Reflect on progress toward personal outreach goals.
- Reflect on the group's progress toward the GO-Outdoors mission.

Course Roles

A few roles are essential to keeping GO-Outdoors running! You can choose to take on one of these roles, independently or as part of a team, as related to your personal outreach goals:

- Posting to and maintaining the website
- Taking and organizing notes for each meeting
- Gathering and organizing materials for lessons and field trips
- Leading the editing and feedback process for newly created resources

In addition, both Ge/ESE 298 students and members of the Caltech community who are not enrolled in the course are encouraged to volunteer on field trips or in classrooms, and to submit lesson plans.

In the first weeks of this course, we will discuss our personal and group outreach goals and may develop and assign additional course roles in the process.

Course Website

All course materials are either posted to or linked via the Canvas website. The Canvas website also links to the GO-Outdoors website (go-outdoors.caltech.edu) and the Google Drive, where more group resources are available.

All communication for the course will be organized through the GO-Outdoors Slack channel within the Caltech GPS workspace.

Course Evaluation and Attendance

Credit for this course is earned on the basis of participation and a self-reflection at the end of the term. As the term comes to a close, we will reflect on our progress toward the personal goals we have set. We will also take time to discuss our progress toward our collective goals, evaluate what worked and what didn't, and set goals for future terms! Active participation throughout the term and in the end-of-term reflection will earn you a passing result.

To earn credit, you will also need to attend at least 70% of course meetings.

Exceptions can be made in case of emergencies or conflicting, pre-scheduled field work or field trips.

If you are concerned about your ability to meet these requirements or need additional accommodations, please contact the course TA. Taking care of your health, well-being, and safety should be your number one priority. It is always possible to make adjustments for individual students' needs.

Inclusivity Policy

Diversity, inclusion, and belonging are all core values of the GO-Outdoors program. All participants in GO-Outdoors and in this course must treat each other with respect in accordance with the honor code. If you feel unwelcome or unsafe in any way, no matter how minor, please talk to the TA, a course instructor, or one of the Deans.

Students with Documented Disabilities

This course is intended to be accessible to all Caltech students. Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with Caltech Accessibility Services for Students (CASS). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact CASS as soon as possible, since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information, visit <http://cass.caltech.edu/> or email cass@caltech.edu.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to group discussion!)

Week	Date	Ahead of class	In class
1	9/29	Read GO-Outdoors SOP, Giles et al., 2020, and Vestal and Nichols, 2016 Prepare to set goals for the term	Discuss syllabus and SOP Draft individual and group goals Decide on mini-presentation topics
2	10/6	Prepare a 3-minute mini-presentation on your topic	Give mini-presentations and discuss Guests: CTLO Associate Director for Educational Outreach and CPET Co-Directors
3	10/13	Work independently or collaboratively toward goals	
4	10/20	Read/prepare materials for workshop	Inclusive Field Trips workshop with CPET
5	10/27	Work independently or collaboratively toward goals	
6	11/3	Read Rowland-Shea et al., 2020	Discuss article in context of our ongoing work
7	11/10	Field trip preparation; work independently or collaboratively toward goals	
8	11/17	Prepare materials for field trip	Pilot segments of the lesson plan
9	Monday, 11/22	Field trip with the Pasadena STARS after-school program	
10	12/1	Prepare thoughts for your self-reflection Students in editing role process and summarize feedback from previous week's field trip	Recap from field trip Self-reflection: written or presented Group discussion: progress and setting goals for next term

Additional Resources for Students

- **Student Wellness Center:** Wide variety of health and wellbeing services; <https://wellness.caltech.edu/>
- **Counseling Services:** Free for all students, regardless of insurance plan; <http://counseling.caltech.edu>
- **Occupational Therapy:** Individual sessions and consultations on building healthy habits and routines, time management, planning and organization, and more. Free for all students; <http://ot.caltech.edu>
- **Center for Inclusion and Diversity:** Resources concerning navigating diversity and inclusion, including staff who can speak with students about challenges of harassment and discrimination; <http://diversitycenter.caltech.edu>
- **Title IX:** Caltech's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@caltech.edu) works with students on issues related to sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sex discrimination; <http://titleix.caltech.edu/>

- **Caltech Accessibility Services for Students:** The Accessibility Services Specialist works with students with temporary medical conditions, or mental, physical or learning disabilities on accommodation requests and services; <http://cass.caltech.edu>
- **Residential Support:** Resident Associates (RAs) and Residential Life Coordinators (RLCs) are also resources for TAs and students; <http://www.residentialexperience.caltech.edu/>
- **Career Development Center:** Provides resources to help students make career decisions and implement career plans; <http://www.career.caltech.edu>