

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

## NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM AREA BIOLOGY

- 1. Catalog Description of the Course.** *[Include the course prefix, number, full title, and units. Provide a course narrative including prerequisites and corequisites. If any of the following apply, include in the description: Repeatability (May be repeated to a maximum of \_\_\_ units); time distribution (Lecture \_\_\_ hours, laboratory \_\_\_ hours); non-traditional grading system (Graded CR/NC, ABC/NC). Follow accepted catalog format.]*

### BIOL 334 NATURAL HISTORY OF VENTURA COUNTY (3)

Two hours lecture and three hours of laboratory per week

This course will explore the biota and ecosystems of Ventura County. Local ecosystems include chaparral, marine, stream, desert, mountain and island. Topics covered will be classification and diversity of conspicuous regional flora and fauna in the field and laboratory, basic ecological and evolutionary principles of botanical and zoological classification, ecosystem diversity and function. Indigenous cultural and colonial era use of biotic resources, history of scientific exploration of the region, conservation and preservation issues, restoration of natural habitats, adaptation, life history and physiology of resident organisms will also be covered. Field trips will be required.

GenEd: B2 and interdisciplinary

- 2. Mode of Instruction.**

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment
Lecture	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>40</u>
Seminar	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Laboratory	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>20</u>
Activity	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

- 3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course.** (Indicate whether required or elective, and whether it meets University Writing, and/or Language requirements) *[Use as much space as necessary]*

Elective course for Biology majors and a General Education Life Sciences requirement for non-majors.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Outline the basic principles and philosophies of plant and animal classification.
- Identify unknown local plant and animal species through the use of keys.
- Identify prominent, rare or unusual members of the regional biota.
- Describe conservation issues and problems as they apply to local ecosystems.
- Identify and discuss the basic descriptive and functional properties of several major regional ecosystems
- Collect and document observational data .
- Prepare a term paper on a natural history topic

- 4. Is this a General Education Course** YES **NO**

If Yes, indicate GE category:

<b>A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)</b>	
<b>B (Life Sciences)</b>	<b>B-2, UDI</b>
<b>C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages &amp; Cultures)</b>	
<b>D (Social Perspectives)</b>	
<b>E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)</b>	

- 5. Course Content in Outline Form.** *[Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary]*

Geologic history of southern California from the Tertiary Period to present

Geographical and climatic zones of southern California

Regional ecosystem structure and function: coast, chaparral, oak scrub, transverse ranges, desert, stream, intertidal, marine, island.

Principles of biological nomenclature and classification: Botanical nomenclature, zoological nomenclature

Classification methods and systematics

Field collection, archiving, and natural history collections (museums, herbaria)

Survey of plant and animal families of Ventura County and surrounding areas: algae, non-vascular plants, seed plants, marine invertebrates, marine fishes, marine mammals, freshwater fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals.

History of regional land use and its impacts on biota.

Current conservation issues.

**6. References.** [Provide 3 - 5 references on which this course is based and/or support it.]

*The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California.* J.C. Hickman, ed. 1993. University of California Press. ISBN 0520082559.  
Collins, B. J. 2000. *Key to Coastal and Chaparral Flowering Plants of Southern California.* Kendall-Hunt Publishing. ISBN 0787271101

Stienstra, T., Seymour, J. and Johnson, PB. 2000. *California Wildlife: A Practical Guide.* Foghorn Press.

Stebbins, RC (Author) and Peterson, RT (Editor). 2003. *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Jameson, EW and Peeters, HJ 2004. *Mammals of California.* University of California Press.

Hinton, S. 1989. *Seashore Life of Southern California: An Introduction to the Animal Life of California Beaches South of Santa Barbara.* University of California Press

Schoenherr, AA. 1995. *A Natural History of California.* University of California Press

Powell, JA and Hogue, CL. 1980. *California Insects.* University of California Press

Clarke, H. 1989. *An Introduction to Southern California Birds.* Mountain Press Publishing Company

**7. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.**

Steven Norris, Amy Denton, Biology faculty

**8. Frequency.**

a. Projected semesters to be offered: Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring x\_\_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_\_

**9. New Resources Required.**

- a. Computer (data processing), audio visual, broadcasting needs, other equipment
- b. Library needs
- c. Facility/space needs

None.

**10. Consultation.**

Attach consultation sheet from all program areas, Library, and others (if necessary)

**11. If this new course will alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program, attach a program modification.**

\_\_\_\_ Amy Denton and Steven Norris \_\_\_\_\_ 16 Dec 03 \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposer of Course Date