

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK  
(45-341)

MONEY MATTERS

This is to remind you that your third installment is due on August 5, 1983. There will be no change in the total cost (\$675.00) of the field course. Please send \$275.00, your final installment made payable to the University of Guelph. Please mail your cheque to the Department of Geography and write Re: Field Trip on the envelope.

Remember that your total payment while covering transportation and accomodation only covers breakfasts, on a pre-set menu, while staying in Tempe. You are required to pay for lunch and dinner while we are in Arizona (11 days) as well as breakfast on the two mornings we are in the Grand Canyon area. Approximately \$10 to \$12/day U.S. should cover these meals (exclusive of your "fluid" intake). Trinket money is additional as well. Change money here to U.S. funds and carry American Express U.S. dollar travellers cheques.

LEGAL MATTERS

You must have proper identification including either your birth certificate or passport.

APPROPRIATE APPAREL

In case you were unaware Arizona is both hot and sunny (mean August temperature 103<sup>o</sup>F, average August precip. 0.9 inches - the wet season). You don't need a raincoat. Light coloured, light weight clothing is appropriate but for extended periods outside long sleeves and long pants are necessary. The Mexicans wear sombreros for good reason - bring an effective hat. For those of you who will be interviewing people we are advised that jeans, shorts, etc. are inappropriate - particularly among the elderly - be neat and nicely attired, females wear dresses, men wear light weight slacks and shirts with collars (just like Pat and Debbie Boone). The motel has a pool, enough said. A light jacket or sweater for while we are at the canyon might be a good idea. We are planning a day trip down into the canyon. For this venture you should have hiking boots or sturdy sneakers, a water bottle of at least one litre capacity (this can be purchased readily in Phoenix), and a small day pack. Don't forget your cameras, and film is generally cheaper in Canada (in U.S. Kodachrome does not include processing). Space is at a premium so travel light - one suitcase per person.

DEPARTURE DAY

All students are required to meet in Mackinnon 120 at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 25th. The morning will be spent on group discussions of the field projects. We will be going as a group to the airport via Red Car between 11:30 and 12:00.

1. Day Field Trips (3) plus Extended 3 Day Trip

The purpose of the field trips is to introduce you to various aspects of the contrasting cultural and physical regions of Arizona. In order to gain the most from these field trips it is essential that each student do some background reading prior to the field trip. Appropriate general references on various aspects of Arizona are found below. Although most of this material will be available to you while we are in Arizona and after our return, we urge you to read as much as you can during the summer prior to the Field Course. A basic package of reading material will be mailed to you under separate cover.

Learning to critically observe physical and cultural landscapes is an important part of a Geographers training. It is often difficult to remember the tremendous amount of information that is usually gained during field trips or field work without recording it in some organized way. You are strongly urged to keep a daily journal during the field trip so that information gained from personal observation or comment from other individuals will be available to you at a later date. A journal of this type will also be a great asset in the preparation of your general essay. This can be augmented with photographs.

2. General Essay

All students will be required to prepare and submit a 2500-3000 word essay on the following topic:

"Man's adaptations to an arid environment: an Arizona perspective."

This topic is sufficiently broad to allow you to approach it from many different directions. You should however try to maintain a balance between the historical and contemporary components of the topic. Material for this paper should be obtained from outside reading, personal observation while on the field trip and information obtained in previous courses. This paper will represent 40% of the course grade.

3. Research Project

The major component of the course (60% of credit) is the design, execution, and submission in final written form of a research project to be undertaken in or near Metro Phoenix. It should be noted that all stages in the development and completion of this project will be considered when the final grade is assigned.

By now you should have selected a topic in consultation with Prof. Nickling (Physical) or Profs. Mage or Keddie (Human). However, we must receive a more formal brief proposal from you over the next few months (1-2 pages)

This should include:

1. a clear statement of the problem
2. proposed location of your study
3. method of study (i.e. sampling procedure, principal data sources, etc.)
4. possible techniques of analysis.

The project should have a distinct "field" component, although it should have a considerable base in the literature as well. It should be noted that field work is not solely restricted to primary data collection (field measurement, questionnaire administration, etc.). Collection of library material, local government reports, etc., and discussion (interviews) with key informants are all valid parts of field work. The project should be designed to be undertaken within the constraints imposed by the field trip - in a given number of days of field work, in a range of possible weather conditions, with limited transportation available, etc. All equipment required should be listed and be known to be available.

You should bear in mind that the actual project work does not commence until our 4th day of Arizona. Some modifications to your proposal may have to be made in the light of field conditions. In developing your proposal remember that field work has a methodological/theoretical component as well as an empirical component. Relatively broad background reading and thinking make it easier to adapt to field conditions and constraints. Facilities for copying and duplicating materials will be available at Arizona State University.

#### Proposed Itinerary

- Aug. 25 Assemble in Guelph in early morning: Orientation lectures and discussion of individual research projects.
- Travel to Phoenix, Arizona
- Aug. 26 Reconnaissance field trip I: Physical geography of the Salt River valley; discussion of 'physical' projects in light of field conditions.
- Aug. 27 Reconnaissance field trip II: Urban geography of the Metropolitan Phoenix region; discussion of urban projects in light of field conditions.
- Aug. 28 Reconnaissance field trip III: Agriculture and rural land use in the Salt River valley; discussion of rural-agricultural projects in the light of field conditions.
- Aug. 29 Project field work.
- Aug. 30 Project field work; review of progress.
- Aug. 31 Field trip to Coconino Plateau and Snow Bowl recreation area (Flagstaff).

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- Sept. 1      Group reconnaissance in Grand Canyon area.
- Sept. 2      Transect through major agricultural regions between Flagstaff  
and Phoenix.
- Sept. 3      Project field work; review of progress.
- Sept. 4      Project field work.
- Sept. 5      Free day (field work if necessary).
- Sept. 6      Return to Toronto.