



## EXPLORING PLANET EARTH

### **Bulletin:**

#### *Academic Credit On Earth Explore Adventures Programs*

Dear Teachers, Parents and Students,

Attached you'll find details of this year's academic credit course, entitled Exploring Planet Earth. This inter-disciplinary course has been specially designed for participants in Earth Explore as an enhancement to their overall educational experience. It is administered by the Pacific Studies Outreach Center. Some special features of the credit program are:

- All accepted Earth Explore students are automatically enrolled in the credit course, and their participation is fully funded by Earth Explore. Whether or not the credits are earned depends upon the individual student completing the requirements of the course as described in the course description.
- In order to earn high school equivalent credit, students must complete the assignments and activities as described in the course description, and mail a copy of their work to the Earth Explore National Office by September 15th.
- Educator/Leaders help to evaluate the participation of each student in academic credit activities, by completing a brief student evaluation at the conclusion of the program. This evaluation form, individually completed for each student, is also sent to the Earth Explore National Office by your Leader.
- After the student's work has been evaluated and judged satisfactory, the Pacific Studies Outreach Center will mail official records to each successful student's home address. Credit awarded to successful students is based on 120 hours of directed field and classroom study, and is generally the equivalent of a high school-level semester course. Individual school districts have full discretion to determine how the credits are applied on the individual student's record.

# **Earth Explore Adventures Credit Course Exploring Planet Earth**

Offered Through  
**Araura College**  
**Pacific Studies Outreach Center**

**Directed Field Studies:** Hands-on cross-disciplinary studies related to Planet Earth

**Cultural Studies/Social Studies/Natural and Environmental Science:** This course satisfies the requirements for a semester high school level course.

**Course registration:** Registered Earth Explore students are automatically enrolled

**Requisite:** Travel to an approved region study site is required

**Course fees:** Provided by Earth Explore

*Special note: Araura College has been fully accredited by the New Zealand accreditation Authority-Ministry of Education. The college is authorized to offer academic course work from the high school level through the second year of college [Forms 4 – 7]. The college has developed a strong international recognition, which include educational grants from the United Nations. The focus of Pacific Studies Outreach Center is to assist young people to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the Earth's natural processes.*

## **Introduction**

### ***Exploring Planet Earth***

This directed study course is designed to satisfy the requirements for a high school level course. It will require you to complete an area study pre-travel orientation and then to travel, as a member of an approved Earth Explore study group. While in the field, you must participate in the site visits and complete the activity evaluations of the specific study sites required below. A journal is not required for academic credit. You may however want to keep a record of your experiences; therefore, an academic journal is strongly suggested.

## **Purpose**

### ***Understanding and appreciating the earth's natural processes and cultures***

This course is designed to assist you to go beyond the traditional classroom lecture and book approach to study and into a higher dimension of learning. By actually traveling to a region that has been designated as a natural world or national heritage site and participating in site studies, you will have the opportunity to better understand and appreciate the earth's dynamic natural and human cultural processes at work. It can also help you to understand the impact that human civilization has had, and is having, on our natural environment.

## **Learning Outcomes**

### ***The student will:***

1. Develop and use knowledge of the following topics:
  - Human cultural and social variations and impacts (Geography, Social Sciences, Humanities)
  - Volcanism, stresses and processes within the earth (Earth Science)
  - Cultural expression and interaction with nature (Art, Humanities)
  - Earth sciences, including landform development and change (Science)
  - Ecosystems, their dynamic interactions, and impacts on flora and fauna – the biological relationship (Biology)
  - Land and sea influences and relationships, including with human societies (Geography, Marine Science, Humanities)
  - Field study techniques; analysis and description (All academic disciplines)
2. Understand the interaction between human societies and the natural environment. Develop an environmental view that encompasses geography, social sciences, natural sciences and the humanities.
3. Understand ‘action planning’ as a tool to educate and involve others in understanding the human/nature connection and the role of environmental education.

## **Pre Travel**

### ***Let us help you succeed!***

Before travel you must review this course syllabus. If you have any difficulties understanding the requirements contact the Earth Explore office at 1.707.538.7400, email at [info@earthexplore.com](mailto:info@earthexplore.com). Or, you can go directly to our website at [earthexplore.com](http://earthexplore.com) and link to Academic Credit. Our friendly staff is here to assist you and will gladly do so. We are committed to your success and will support your efforts whenever we can.

### ***Exploring Earth destinations***

In the weeks after you register for an Earth Explore program, you will receive your field study guide (Adventure Guide) and other materials including quarterly newsletters. You will also attend group Preparation Sessions. This material is a valuable source of information that will help to prepare you for your travels and to successfully complete this course.

## **Travel**

### ***Experiencing the greatest classroom on earth***

The goals of the Pacific Studies Outreach Center are to provide students participating in educational field study programs with the opportunity to:

- increase their understanding of the earth’s dynamic physical forces and how human societies are connected with the natural world
- use a cross disciplinary model in approaching study in the outdoor classroom, including elements of science, history, cultural studies, and the humanities
- develop confidence in themselves as observers of the natural environment, and

- gain an appreciation of their responsibility as a steward in protecting the natural world.

***The Earth Explore Adventures travel itinerary in which you are participating has been approved by the Pacific Studies Outreach Center as an educational experience that will provide you with the opportunity to accomplish these goals.***

### ***Documenting your experiences***

During your travels you will be visiting some exciting places and participating in many informative activities. You will be able to experience things first-hand that you may have only studied about in school or read about in books. Officially documenting what you will be seeing and experiencing by earning the academic credit is important to you. It could mean greater recognition in high school, better grades, greater self-esteem, or, by including a copy of your transcript with your application for admissions into college, the difference in gaining entrance into the college of your choice.

### ***Academic Assignments Required***

Included in this syllabus is a copy of an Activity Evaluation form, which has been designed to help you to more easily record your travel experiences, and web-site research. You may copy as many of these forms as necessary to complete this course. To receive a passing grade, you must satisfactorily complete the following:

#### ***Before travel,***

- satisfactorily complete an Activity Evaluation form for each of three (3) web-sites that focus on educational topics encountered during the travel program. One form is included in this syllabus. You should make at least 3 copies to complete this assignment.
- attend and participate in scheduled pre-departure Preparation Sessions
- practice non-confrontational and responsible behaviors

#### ***And, during travel,***

- travel on an approved Earth Explore itinerary
- attend and participate in all of the scheduled program field activities
- satisfactorily complete an Activity Evaluations form for at least ten (10) of the Earth Explore activities attended in the field. One form is included in this syllabus. You should make at least ten copies to take with you.

## **After Travel**

### ***Home Again-sharing and documenting your experiences***

The real test of learning is reflected not so much in the learner's academic grade as it is in his/her attitudes and actions after the initial learning process has ended. Perhaps even more so than you, from here on, others around you will know what changes have taken place in your life because of your Earth Explore experience. What you share with them is a reflection of what you really learned.

As we mentioned in the opening statements of the Travel phase, an Earth Explore experience well done can enlighten the student and increase his/her understanding of the world they share with all life, and can help the student to develop self confidence as an observer of the natural world. The educational process can be a terrific one. Keep an open mind and don't be afraid to share your Earth Explore experience with others.

### ***Review of the Assignments Required***

By September 15th you must send copies of all of your completed course work to the Earth Explore Office for grading by the Pacific Studies Outreach Center. The following is required for a passing grade:

- Three (3) satisfactorily completed Activity Evaluation forms, covering web-site research on topics related to the program, and
- Ten (10) satisfactorily completed Activity Evaluation forms covering activities attended in the field, and
- A satisfactory STUDENT EVALUATION form. This participation and conduct evaluation will be made by your leadership team. Leaders will complete one evaluation form for each student at the conclusion of the program. They will be sent to Earth Explore, and forwarded to the Pacific Studies Outreach Center.

***Student note: Unless otherwise requested in writing, all grades will be posted as either Credit [Pass] or No Credit. Records are important documents and when received, must be kept safe by the student for future use.***

MAKE COPIES OF YOUR ORIGINALS, THEN SEND ALL COMPLETED ACADEMIC CREDIT WORK AS DESCRIBED ABOVE TO EARTH EXPLORE ADVENTURES AT THE ADDRESS BELOW. PLEASE INCLUDE A COVER SHEET, LISTING YOUR NAME, THE NAME OF YOUR PROGRAM AND THE DATES OF TRAVEL.

Earth Explore Adventures  
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