



Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources

**In Our Own Backyard:
Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum - Fresno**

EDUO 9804 1 Semester Credit/Unit

Instructor – Julie Gray

jgray@dominicanaonline.com

Course Description:

This class will provide teachers with the opportunity to visit and learn about four outstanding community destinations of interest to students of any grade level such as the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies at Riverview Ranch, and additional cultural and educational destinations of choice that would be of interest to their grade level students, and that would enrich the curriculum. For teachers outside the Fresno area, four educational destinations in their area may be substituted. Additionally, two of the four educational destinations may be of teacher's choice. Learning about the unique educational programs these destinations provide can then be shared by each teacher at their school site and in their classroom through fieldtrip opportunities, cultural activities, online web experiences, and high-interest curriculum.

Course Objectives:

1. Teachers will learn what educational programs and other opportunities are available for their students at four outstanding educational destinations.
2. By participating in tours of four educational destinations that enrich the curriculum, teachers will further their knowledge of the subject matter that can be taken back to the classroom and incorporated into the curriculum.
3. Teachers will gain new knowledge to plan and teach meaningful educational lessons and supplemental activities for their grade level.
4. Teachers will be able to provide educational field trip information for parents and staff and plan meaningful fieldtrips that enrich the curriculum of the grade level taught.

Class Requirements:

1. Enrollment in this class is available online at www.DominicanCAonline.com. Registration is also available at any of the Fresno informational meetings scheduled. Locations and times of these meetings are posted online, or listed on the Dominican University flyer.
2. Each participant will tour four educational destinations of interest at their convenience, two of which may be outside the Central Valley. A list of recommended choices is included in the syllabus. Instructor approval is not necessary. Appropriate websites for each site should also be perused.
3. Please call ahead for times that community educational destinations are open (as they can change without notice), and for the current price of admission. It is highly recommended, to get the most out of this class, that teachers call a day or two ahead to request a docent guided tour, where available. Pictures of sites, videos, or admission tickets should be submitted with coursework as proof of visitation. Additionally, cite any educational destination websites that were visited.
4. The Summary and Evaluation pages of the course should be completed and emailed to the course instructor with the proof of visits (tickets, photos) and four reflection write-ups.

Coursework Written Reflection

Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Typed reflections of one page or longer for each educational destination should include responses to the following questions:

1. What did you appreciate and enjoy the most at each destination and what did you find least appealing, and why?
2. What interesting facts and ideas were presented at each destination?
3. What further questions would you like to have answered after visiting these educational destinations?
4. Would any of the information gained at the chosen destinations be applicable to the curriculum of your grade level? What state standards would apply, if any?
5. Describe at least one enrichment activity for your grade level that would supplement a visit to these educational destinations.
6. Any additional comments are appreciated.

Grading Rubric: Written Response Rubric

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations: A+ to A-	Acceptable: Meets Expectations: B+-B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement. Must be resubmitted.
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment; some ideas unclear.
Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience.	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.
Coursework is free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing is difficult to read.

Instructions for coursework submission:

Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. Pictures and documents may be scanned and posted along with your Word or PDF file of written assignments. Label everything carefully with the assignment number and make sure that your name and email address are easy to locate.

Visit four sites and submit responses for EACH location.

IMPORTANT - Camera images can be very large files. Save the images in lower definition resolution in order to keep document file sizes down for emailing.

For assistance email jherz@dominicancaonline.com

EMAIL your completed documents to the instructor's email listed on the syllabus you are working from.

Recommended Educational Destinations in and outside the Fresno Area:

Note: Hours of operation are subject to change. It is highly recommended to call the sites to confirm all information.

1. The Chaffee Zoo

Phone: (559) 498-5910 or email at info@fresnochaffeezoo.org.

Located in Roeding Park at 894 W. Belmont Ave. Open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. every day except Christmas. Adult admission: \$7.00, children: \$3.50, and free for children under two.

Adult admission: \$7.00, children: \$3.50, and free for children under two. The Fresno Chaffee Zoo has many educational programs to offer teachers such as Zoo School, Habitats Lab, Zoo Talks at the Zoo, Rain Forest Tours, Docent-led tours and more.

Note: The city of Fresno charges a \$5.00 per car fee to enter Roeding Park.

2. The Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies at Riverview Ranch

Phone: (559) 248-8480 www.riverparkway.org.

Location: 11605 Old Friant Road. Call for directions or see website for up-to-date information.

Hours: Grounds open daily from 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. The Historic Ranch House is open Saturday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The River Center exhibits are available to the public when the River Center is open. Entry is free; suggested donation for admission is \$3.00 per person.

The Coke Hallowell Center offers unique interpretive programs and exhibits that emphasize the cultural and natural history of the San Joaquin river. The center features a restored 1890's ranch house with exhibits that explore many themes, including Native Americans, settlers, natural history, music, and art. Permanent features include the Reading and Research rooms and a viewing room with spotting scopes to observe nearby birds and other wildlife. An orchard and vineyard, demonstration garden and rose garden are located on the grounds. Public Tearooms and a gift shop are located in the Pavilion. Ample parking is available.

3. Take Your Class to the River!

The San Joaquin River Parkway offers School Field Trips to take students to the river. The Parkway Trust works in partnership with the Fresno County Office of Education and Fresno County Parks to provide experiential learning opportunities for grades K-12. Locations are at the River Center (4th grade only), at Lost Lake County Park, and Scout Island Outdoor Education Center. School field trips, classroom presentations, nature walks, canoe tours, and River Camp, And River Buddies Preschool Program are all available. A minimum of 15 students is required per field trip. Cost: \$5.00 per student. Adults are free of charge. Teacher Guides are available.

4. Roeding Park's Storyland

Phone: (559) 486-2124 or www.storylandplayland.com.

Located at 890 W. Belmont Avenue in Roeding Park. Entrance fee to park is \$5.00 per vehicle. Open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. starting January 5th, 2013. Storyland admission is \$5.00 per adult and \$3.50 per child, ages two to twelve years old. Field trips to Storyland encourage literacy and show young children how fun reading can be.

5. Sierra Endangered Cat Haven

Phone: (559) 338-3216 or www.cathaven.com.

The haven offers guided tours of some of the rarest cats in the world. Founded in 1993 with the purchase of 100 scenic acres just west of King's Canyon National Park. This animal park is dedicated to the preservation of threatened and endangered species of wild cats.

Address: 38257 E. Kings Canyon Rd. in Dunlap, Ca. Open May 1st-Sept. 30th from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Last tour is at 4:00 p.m. See website for all dates open during the year. Cost: Adults- \$9.00, Children- \$6.00. See directions from your area on their website.

6. The San Joaquin Fish Hatchery-California Department of Fish and Game

Website: www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Hatcheries/SanJoaquin.

Location: 17372 Brook Trout Ave., Friant, Ca. Located one mile below Lake Millerton Dam, about 12 miles north of Fresno. Hours: Open to the public daily from 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m-3:30 p.m. Free admission. View rainbow trout in various life stages, feed the fish, and watch them jump. Bring quarters for fish food.

7. Kings Art Center

Phone: (559) 584-1065 or www.kingsartcenter.org.

Located at 605 Douty Street in Hanford. Open from 1:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, and 12-3 p.m. on Sunday. Donations accepted. The Kings Art Center provides hands-on art education coupled with high quality exhibitions of artwork from throughout California as well as from local artists.

8. The Pizza Farm

Phone: (559) 439-0606 or www.cobbranch.com. Email: jim@cobbranch.com.

Tour the only farm in the San Joaquin Valley that actually grows pizza. Located at the historic Cobb Ranch on Highway 41, across from Children's Hospital. Students can enjoy guided tours of the Pizza Farm, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride around the beautiful ranch. Each class will plant their own "mini pizza farm" which students take back to school as an on-going lesson in farming. Open March-September. Tours last approximately two hours. Ample bus parking and shaded picnic area. Admission fee: \$6.00 per visitor. Free lesson plans included. Teacher free per twenty students.

9. The Monterey Bay Aquarium

Phone: (831) 648-4800 or www.montereybayaquarium.org

Address: 886 Cannery Row, Monterey, Ca. 93740. The Monterey Bay Aquarium was founded in 1984 and is located on the site of a former sardine factory on Cannery Row above the Pacific ocean shoreline. Check the aquarium's website for daily shows, tours of the exhibits and current Aquarium Adventures, and admission price for school groups.

Aquarium hours:

Open every day except Dec. 25

Regular hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Winter: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

More information: (831) 648-4800

10. Monarch Butterfly Grove and Sanctuary in Pacific Grove

Monarch butterflies overwinter in Pacific Grove every year from November through February. Pacific Grove's monarch overwintering site is located on Ridge Road off of Lighthouse venue in downtown Pacific Grove. Museum sanctuary docents are available everyday during these months at the sanctuary from 12:00-3:00p.m to assist with monarch viewing. Admission is free with donations appreciated.

11. The California Missions

www.missionscalifornia.com is the website for the California Missions Resource Center. This site states that it is "your comprehensive guide to discovering the history behind the California missions and the people who founded and shaped the character of California." The Mission of San Juan Bautista has been an educational destination visited by students in the Central Valley.

13. A tour of a local college, such as California State University of Fresno.



Documentation Page

Include ticket stubs, signature of docents, brochures or photographs as proof of visitation.

Educational Destination #1:

Educational Destination #2:

Educational Destination #3:

Educational Destination #4:



Coursework Written Reflection

Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Typed reflections of one page or longer for each educational destination visit should include responses to the following questions:

1. What did you appreciate and enjoy the most about the destinations that you toured, and what did you find least interesting, and why?
2. What interesting facts or ideas were presented that might be applicable to your classroom curriculum? What state standards would apply, if any?
3. What further questions would you like to have answered about the destinations that were visited?
4. Who can one contact to arrange a fieldtrip to each destination and what, if any, would be the cost of a tour?
5. Describe at least one enrichment activity that would supplement a visit to the destination visited. Include at least one website viewed.
6. Any additional comments are appreciated.

Summary and Evaluation Sheet

Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course.

Not Required

What suggestions would you give to improve this self-paced class?
Would you recommend this class to other teachers?