



*Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources*

**In Our Own Backyard:  
Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum –  
Monterey Bay Region**

EDUO 9804 1 Semester Credit/Unit

Instructor – Allan Varni

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**Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

This course will provide teachers with the opportunity to visit and explore four outstanding Monterey Bay area educational and cultural centers of interest to teachers and students of any grade level. Teachers tour the **Pacific Grove Museum** of Natural History, **National Steinbeck Center**, **plus one site in the Monterey Bay area and one additional site of your choice.**

Students will benefit as teachers bring these fieldtrip exploration experiences, cultural activities, community focus and other ideas into their curriculum.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Teachers will learn what educational programs and other opportunities are available for their students at four outstanding educational sites.
2. By experiencing the unique venues participating teachers will further their knowledge of art culture, history, science, natural history, agriculture, etc., that can be taken back to the classroom and incorporated into the curriculum.
3. Teachers will gain the knowledge to plan and teach meaningful lessons and activities for their grade level.
4. Teachers will be able to provide field trip information for parents and staff, and plan meaningful fieldtrips that enrich the curriculum of grade level taught.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Enroll online by clicking [here](#) where you can download the course syllabus for [In our Own Backyard: Destinations that Enrich the Curriculum, Monterey Bay Area](#). You can also get more information by attending area summer course orientation meeting. [Click here](#) for dates, times and locations.
2. You will tour four museums/cultural centers at your convenience. Three required visitations include: **Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, National Steinbeck Center**, plus **one site** in the Monterey Bay area. The **fourth** required visit might be a tour of any museum/cultural center in California. A list of Monterey Bay area museums/cultural centers is provided below.
3. Visit the locations at your convenience (you have nine-months to complete this course). Be prepared to take notes. At the completion of each tour, have the Passport Page of the packet stamped and dated by the museum receptionist, or if this is not available attach some form of entrance receipt instead
4. The **Documentation Page** should be stamped and/or signed, as well as dated by the docent or receptionist at each site.
5. Complete the required written reflection on each site visited. Coursework should be typed in size 12 font. Each Reflection write-up should be one to two pages in length and address every question posed in the coursework.
6. Complete all coursework, including the **Evaluation Form** below.

**\*Note: It is advisable to call ahead for the days/hours that these venues are open to the public**, and for the admission costs as they occasionally change. For some venues, it is also recommended that you **call ahead to request a docent-guided tour**. A camera may be needed to record some sites visited. Evidence as proof of the visit must be attached to the coursework, such as a photograph, a stamp/signature from a docent, a brochure/ticket, etc.

## Instructions for coursework submission:

### Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor.  
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](mailto:jherz@dominicancaonline.com)

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

- For questions about the coursework or orientation venues, contact the instructor, [Allan Varni](mailto:avarni@dominicancaonline.com) ([avarni@dominicancaonline.com](mailto:avarni@dominicancaonline.com)).

## Written Response Grading Rubric:

<b>Exemplary: Exceeds Expectations = A</b>	<b>Acceptable: Meets Expectations = B</b>	<b>Unacceptable: Needs Improvement, Must be Resubmitted.</b>
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.
Free of spelling or grammatical errors.	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing difficult to read.

## Coursework Written Reflection

Head each reflection paper with the name of the site visited. Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Reflection papers should be typed in size 12 font. Each paper should be one to two pages long and include responses to the following questions:

### Additional Venue of your Choice:

1. What interesting facts and ideas were presented at this community site?
2. How can you make the exhibits or information applicable to your classroom curriculum?
3. Describe at least one enrichment activity or lesson that would result from a classroom visit to this site.

## Site Information:

### 1. Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History:

Phone: 831-648-5716      Address: 165 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove  
Hours: Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at [www.pgmuseum.org](http://www.pgmuseum.org)

The museum is dedicated to interpreting the natural history of Monterey County. It has permanent exhibits, which interpret the native plants, animals, geology and aboriginal populations. The museum has an onsite program for school groups to visit. Monterey County schools may visit at no cost. Visits can consist of either a self-guided walk-through, or a talk with one of the museum staff on a specific topic, or a combination of both.

### 2. National Steinbeck Center:

Phone: 831-796-3833      Address: One Main Street, Salinas  
Hours: Open daily (except some holidays) 10am – 5pm  
Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org)

The National Steinbeck Center is a journey through Steinbeck's world, where literature jumps off the printed page and into your imagination. There are six themed galleries filled with interactive, multi-sensory exhibits, movie clips, stage sets and more. The museum is for all ages and backgrounds. It is located in historic OLD TOWN SALINAS.

## Other Monterey Bay Area Sites of Interest to visit:

### 1. Casa Serrano:

412 Pacific Street, Monterey, 831-372-2608  
Call for hours open.  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at [www.historicmonterey.org](http://www.historicmonterey.org)

### 2. Casa Soberanes:

Corner of Del Monte Ave. and Pacific Street, Monterey, 831-649-7118  
Guided tours Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11:30am  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at [www.historicmonterey.org](http://www.historicmonterey.org)

### 3. Colton Hall Museum and Old Jail:

Located on Pacific Street, between Madison and Jefferson, Monterey, 831-646-5648,  
Open daily 10am - 4pm.  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at [www.monterey.org/jain.html](http://www.monterey.org/jain.html)

### 4. Cooper-Molera Adobe:

525 Polk Street, Monterey, 831-649-7118  
Open Monday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm, Sunday, 1pm – 4pm.  
Free guided tours Monday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 3pm and Wed. at 2:30 pm.  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours at  
[www.historicmonterey.org/?p=cooper\\_molera\\_adobe](http://www.historicmonterey.org/?p=cooper_molera_adobe)

**5. The Farm:**

Highway #68 off Spreckels Road exit, Salinas, 831-424-1996 or 831-455-2575  
[www.thefarm-salinasvalley.com/what.html](http://www.thefarm-salinasvalley.com/what.html)  
Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm  
Tours Tuesday and Thursday at 1pm. Must be booked in advance.  
Admission: Check seasonal hours and pricing at [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org)

**6. Stevenson House:**

530 Houston Street, Monterey, 831-649-7118  
Open Saturday and Sunday 11am – 2pm. Guided tours Monday – Friday 2pm  
To arrange a tour, call 831-657-6348.  
Admission: Free, check seasonal hours and pricing at  
[www.historicmonterey.org/?p=stevenson\\_house](http://www.historicmonterey.org/?p=stevenson_house)

**Coursework Written Reflection:**

Head each reflection paper with the name of the site visited. Please include the name of your school and district where you teach, and the grade level you are now teaching. Reflection papers should be typed or neatly written in black ink. Each paper should be one to two pages long and include responses to the following questions:

**Museum/Cultural Center of Choice**

1. What interesting facts and ideas were presented at this community site?
2. How can you make the exhibits or information applicable to your classroom curriculum?
3. Describe at least one enrichment activity or lesson that would result from a classroom visit to this site.

## Documentation Page

**Please have each museum receptionist sign/stamp and date this page where possible.**

1. Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History:

2. National Steinbeck Center:

3. Monterey area site of your choice from the suggested list:

4. Community site of your choice:



## Summary and Evaluation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & Email:

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Summarize and evaluate your experiences in completing this course.

### **Not Required**

What suggestions do you have for improving this independent study class?

Would you recommend this class to other teachers?

Thank you.