

**Syllabus**  
**GLY5786/4930 – Field Topics in Geology of the Bahamas**  
**Spring, 2015**

**I. Topics:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic to be covered</b>
1/21/15	Geology of the Bahamas
2/4/15	Tectonics of the Bahamian Banks
2/11/15	Bahamian Karst and Hydrology
2/25/15	Carbonate Sedimentation and Diagenesis
3/11/15	Carbonate Petrology
3/25/15	Final planning

**IIA. Work Expectations**

- 1) Attend all classes, do all reading, participate (in a lively way) in all discussions, and complete a short quiz on each reading assignment.
- 2) Help lead (in a lively way) one of the five discussions.
- 3) Participate (in a lively way) in discussions and activities in the field.
- 4) Turn in a complete, detailed field notebook including information about each of the stops and your thoughts, insights, and discoveries about Bahamian geology.
- 5) Prepare a short presentation with detailed handouts for an evening ‘topics’ discussion that will be useful for the following day’s field stops
- 6) Develop, execute and present a group field project on San Salvador.

**IIB. Behavior requirements for San Salvador**

- 1) If you arrive in the morning incapable of **participating** (not just tagging along) in that day’s field trip, you will fail the class.
- 2) Illegal drugs will not be tolerated. If you are found with drugs, or try to buy drugs on the island, we are not responsible for your legal problems. If you are in jail, we will leave you there when we return to the States. Marijuana is illegal in the Bahamas, and the penalties for possession include jail time. You do not want to go to Bahamian Jail!
- 3) Do not party with locals, either at bars or alone on the beach. San Salvadorians are generally very friendly, but there are many off-island Bahamians there now, who may not be so nice.

**III. Logistics**

**Trip:** We are planning to spend seven days traveling to and staying at the Gerace Field Station on San Salvador, Bahamas around March 27-April 4. The exact day we leave and return will depend on flight options and costs (each additional night costs \$67.50). The goal is to be back home by Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup>, so there is a day before classes on Monday.

**Estimated Costs:** Airfare ~\$400

Gerace Field Station Room and Board \$67/night + \$1.50/day insurance (\$411)

***We will collect a non-refundable deposit of \$450 to purchase airline tickets at the Jan. 16th class meeting.*** Checks should be made out to Ellen or Jon Martin

***We'll collect the remainder of the money in mid March (estimated to be about \$350 depending on the final airfare, class enrollment).***

Additional costs you will be responsible for:

- We will probably need to spend a night in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale or Nassau en route to San Sal. We'll put multiple people in each room, so it's usually ~\$30/person
- Incidentals on the island.
- The Field Station offers a great trip to Green Key to see lizards and birds and dive a beautiful, more remote reef. The trip will be optional and depends on weather and the availability of a captain. Cost is \$18/person

#### **IV. Grade**

- Participation 20%
- Leading discussion 15%
- Reading Quizzes 15%
- Topics presentation 20%
- Field Notebook 10%
- Field Project 20%

Grading Scheme:  $\geq 93 = A$ ;  $90-92 = A-$ ;  $87-89 = B+$ ;  $83-86 = B$ ;  $80-82 = B-$ , etc

#### **V. Things you will need**

**\*\*\*\*\*Passport!!!\*\*\*\*\***

Field notebook

Mask/fins/snorkel and way to carry them

Bathing suits

Beach towel

Hand lens

Rock hammer (we'll need a few of these so we should coordinate)

Flash light for caving (likely to get wet)

Sunscreen

Sunglasses

Hat

Insect repellent

Money in small denominations, there are no ATM's or banks on San Salvador Island.

Chargers

Camera/ spare batteries

Shoes with sturdy soles- can be Chacos or water shoes, but coastal karren is nasty stuff

A pair of old sneakers

**Other useful items**

- The water will be around 78 degrees, so wet suits aren't necessary, but useful for people who get cold
- Snacks- everything is expensive on the island, you can save a lot by bringing popcorn, nuts, crackers, granola bars, etc. That way you can save your money for fruit juice and things to put in the fruit juice
- A sweatshirt- it does get cool in the evenings
- A light cover- we'll be driving around in open trucks, so you will be exposed to the sun a lot. It helps to be able to cover up while we're traveling. It can also be cold driving in the back of the truck after getting out of the water
- Rain gear
- You don't need a lot of clothes, but it is expected that we will clean up and look decent for meals.
- Laundry detergent- there are several washing machine available so you can run a load while you're there (air dry)