

University of Wyoming Geology & Geophysics
Field camp (GEOL 4717)

Overarching Principles of Field Camp

A fundamental priority for UW Geology & Geophysics Field Camp (Geology 4717), which is our department's capstone course, is to teach students to understand geologic processes in an experiential outdoor environment that fosters the physical, physiological, and emotional safety for both students and staff. As such, "safety-first", "leave-no-trace", and "golden-rule ethics" are the overarching principles for this course.

Your Instructors Qualifications and Role:

Collectively, the instructors you are working with for Geology 4717 have many decades of field experience. They have conducted research in both hemispheres across the globe, worked for wilderness programs including NOLS and Outward Bound, been high-altitude mountain guides in technical terrain, and taught field-camp in these locations for many years. In addition, your instructors and teaching assistants are trained, to various degrees, in responding to medical emergencies. Therefore, your instructors and teaching assistants are the only ones in charge of setting reasonable boundaries and making logistical and safety decisions. In the process of making their decisions, they will keep you informed of the rationale behind these decisions. Most importantly, they can be relied on to help you if you need medical assistance or physical accommodation, and to provide support and encouragement in difficult situations, including, for example, physical or emotional hardship.

While your instructors are well-trained, they cannot control all foreseeable and non-foreseeable factors that may impact your well-being as well as dangerous mistakes of your own choosing or ignorance. As such, it is important for you to understand that you are responsible for your own safety and the safety of others.

Your Role as a Student:

Managing physical risk and maintaining a happy, cohesive, and inclusive group during all aspects of Geology 4717 goes beyond the responsibilities of Instructors and Support Staff (i.e., Teaching Assistants and camp cook(s)). Besides teaching you to understand and document geological processes in the field, one of our primary educational objectives is to include you, the students, in the safety management process and to teach you to work as a cohesive professional team. Thus, it is also up to you, the students, to make this a safe and enjoyable capstone field course. Take care of each other and help each other out when in need, as you may also need help one day.

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Contract Agreements

Please read the agreements below with your undivided attention as your health, happiness, and even your grade rely upon your compliance with these principles and agreements. You are required to sign each contractual statement.

Personal Safety:

First and foremost, I understand that physical and physiological safety is paramount. As such, I will make my own safety and the safety of others my priority. I will watch out for my personal safety, as well as that of my colleague's well-being at all times. Safety-first will be my guiding principle, and I will prioritize situational awareness and let go of bravado and ego.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Environmental Protection:

As a citizen of the Earth, I will protect and take care of the environment we are traveling through during field camp. I will adhere to the principles of "leave no-trace" and respect the land. I will not kill any living creatures (except mosquitos and flies!) and will not recklessly destroy fauna or rocks. In addition, I will not collect any artifacts I may come across but will note their exact location to convey to the local archeologists.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Interpersonal Dynamics:

As a capstone course emphasizing teamwork and physical, emotional, and physiological safety for all, I agree to conduct myself in a mature and responsible manner during all aspects of the course. I understand that lewd, confronting, antisocial behavior which alienates others and makes people uncomfortable is not allowed and can result in my receiving a failing grade and even being removed from the course. Instead, I will help foster a culture of inclusion within the group, respect others' backgrounds and personal choices, and treat others as I wish them to treat me.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Course Syllabus and Behavior Policy:

I acknowledge reading the Geology 4717 course syllabus, and behavior policy (including both field and camp).

Name:

Signature:

Date: