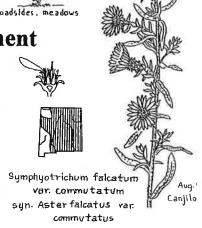




## **Biology 1305 Our Natural Environment**

August term 2013

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## The Environment:

The Fort Burgwin campus is an interdisciplinary teaching and research facility located at an elevation of 7,400 feet in a mountain valley of the Sangre de Cristo Range in north-central New Mexico. The campus occupies more than 400 acres in the midst of the Carson National Forest. Alpine to desert environments are within easy driving distances and adjacent watersheds include a wide range of Rocky Mountain flora and fauna. Field trips to unique ecological biomes allow first hand examination. The prehistory and history of the region are vividly represented by the presence of Pueblo ruins, Spanish colonial and Frontier Western architecture. The city of Taos illustrates Spanish settlement from the 16 century and is well known as a center for the visual arts.

## THE FACILITIES:

The campus encompasses a reconstructed frontier cavalry fort which houses classrooms, a modern library and computer lab and research labs. Students live in small dormitories, casitas of adobe construction. Each casita is electrically heated and provides complete lavatory and shower facilities as well as a living room-study area with fireplace. Great meals are served in a spacious dining-assembly hall.

## THE COURSE:

The course will provide an introduction to the environments of the southwest. The various plant communities present from Alpine, Canadian, Transition, upper and lower Sonoran zones will be examined. The climax vegetation will be identified and the unique adaptations shown by that vegetation recognized. The student will spend approximately four hours each day in lectures and field trips with additional day long field trips by vehicle and on foot to the varied habitats in the Taos region. An environmental experiment will be set up and run. The course satisfies three hours of the science requirement for non-science majors. It has been approved by the General Education council. Textbook will be purchased on the Taos campus.