

Quick Fact Sheet for Volcano Studies in Hawaii, 2005

- Instructor: Dr. Beth Rinard, Tarleton State University
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PhD in Geophysics from Southern Methodist University, May 2004
Research: Seismicity and structure of Kilauea Volcano
9 years of teaching experience at Tarleton State University
Taught this course 7 times for Tarleton students
Served as intern at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, summer 1993
- Qualified Participants Geology, Earth Science, and Science Education majors, graduate students, and faculty. Faculty members may audit the course.
- Estimated Expenses: \$25 application fee if accepted for spot on trip (includes transcript for your school)
\$1100 trip fee (includes lodging, all trip activities, some course materials)
\$400 tuition/fees
\$20-\$40 text book (available online)
\$250 food
\$700-\$900 airfare from home city to Hilo, Hawaii
- Application Process
1. Contact Dr. Rinard.
 2. Ask one of your professors to send a letter of recommendation to Dr. Rinard. In the letter, the professor must verify that you are a geology/earth science/science education major or graduate student, and that you can be trusted to follow designated safety rules on an active volcano.
 3. When/if you receive notification you that you are granted permission to take the course, apply to Tarleton as a transient student.
 4. You will receive all logistical details when you are accepted.
- Payment
1. Payments to Tarleton (application fee, tuition/fees, trip fee) may be made by check, money order, Mastercard, or Visa.
 2. Tuition/fees due mid-May.
 3. Trip fee: Deposit of \$500 due as soon as you are accepted, remaining \$600 due May 1. Your reservation is confirmed when your deposit is received. Failure to pay the full trip fee by the May 1 due date will result in forfeit of your spot on the trip. If this happens, your deposit will be refunded.
 4. Airfare, food, and textbook are items you will be purchasing on your own, so there are no due dates for these items. Please bring at least \$250 in cash for food purchases.
- Logistics
1. Students will arrive in Hilo, Hawaii on the afternoon of May 15.
 2. Transportation while on the island will be via instructor-driven vans. Students will not be allowed to rent their own cars.
 3. Lodging is at Kilauea Military Camp, a military recreation facility within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It is located on the rim of the summit caldera. We will be in a 7-bedroom suite-style cabin with kitchen.
 4. Students will be assigned a roommate.
 5. Many meals will be cooked by the group. All students will contribute money toward groceries, and both students and instructors will take turns cooking and cleaning the kitchen.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the place like where we'll be staying?

Answer: Kilauea Military Camp is a military recreation facility. It's staffed by Marines, but most of the workers are civilians. We have reserved a beautiful 7-bedroom, 4-bathroom cabin. Two students will be assigned to each room, and each room is connected to another room by a bathroom. The camp is located within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and is literally right across the road from the summit caldera. We will be 1½ miles from the park's visitor center, and 1½ miles from the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. The camp has a post office, general store, laundry facilities, weight room, pool tables, bowling alley, miniature golf, basketball and tennis courts, and a cafeteria. It does not have a swimming pool. We will have a kitchen so we can cook many meals.

2. How much free time will I have?

Answer: Most of your evenings will be free, and we will have one day of very light course activities so you can go hiking on your own on one of dozens of trails in the park, catch up on laundry or postcards, etc. Most of the rest of the time will be spent in course activities somewhere on the island.

3. How close can we get to active lava?

Answer: The short answer is that it depends entirely on the volcano's activity during the time we're there. We will hike to active lava flows if they are accessible, which means they'll have to be on the coastal plain. Lava flows have been accessible 3 of the 7 times I've taught this trip, the most recent of those in May 2004. So your odds are almost 50/50.

4. How safe is it to get near the lava flows?

Answer: Active lava flows can be very dangerous, and so can the hike to see them. But if you take certain precautions, it can be a perfectly safe and unforgettable experience. These precautions include taking plenty of water, sunscreen, a hat, snacks, a flashlight, sturdy hiking boots, and heat protection (cotton and/or leather from neck to toe). At this time, any accessible flows will be found on the coastal plains where daytime temperatures and humidity are high, and you'll be hiking across black rocks. Heat stress is a major concern as are noxious sulfur-based gases. Check the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory's website for information about the current status of the eruption and any accessible lava flows. The website is: <http://hvo.wr.usgs.gov> (note there is no www). When you get in, click on the Eruption Update.

5. How much spending money will I need to bring?

Answer: Money for food and souvenirs. You'll need at least \$250 in cash for food. You'll have to determine your own budget for souvenirs. Credit cards are widely accepted. Keep in mind the new weight limits the airlines have imposed. Each bag can only weigh 40lb, and there's a \$75 charge for any bag over that limit.

6. Will I have a chance to collect samples?

Answer: Yes, if they are important for your research. There is a cultural issue with taking rocks... almost all island residents will tell you that very bad things will happen to you if you take rocks. There is still a very real belief in the volcano goddess Pele. Out of respect to the local residents and Pele, random rock collection will be discouraged. Sand collection is also strongly discouraged. Many beaches are nesting sites for endangered sea turtles so it's best to leave the sand where it is.

7. What will I have to do to get credit?

Answer: First of all, you must be approved to go on the trip. Then you'll apply to Tarleton as a transient student for the summer and register for the course. Before we leave, you'll read a textbook on volcanoes. Then you'll answer some questions for me and send the answers via email. You'll also prepare a short (10-15 minute) presentation you'll give while we're on the island. While we're on the trip, you'll be expected to answer specific questions about locations we visit, and keep a field notebook which you'll turn in a few times during the trip. Written questions are due before you leave the island. Before the end of the field trip you'll choose a topic for a term paper and have it approved by the instructor. The term paper will be due at the end of June.

8. Will we get to see anything other than the volcano?

Answer: Definitely, though technically it's all on top of one volcano or another. We'll visit the other 4 volcanoes on the island, several waterfalls, a beautiful botanical garden, an old "place of refuge," a black sand beach, a green sand beach (one of only 2 I'm aware of in the world!), and we'll do some snorkeling/scuba diving one day so we can talk about the development of coral reefs and endemic species on the flanks of an isolated volcanic island. Much of the summit of Kilauea is covered in native rainforest as well, so we'll get a chance to see and some rainforest birds and great rainforest plants like tree ferns and the native Hawaiian ohia trees. We will also visit the Pacific Tsunami Museum, the charming waterfront area of downtown Hilo, and a volcanically-heated tide pool. It's all part of the course so you'll have questions to answer about all of these areas.

9. What will the weather be like?

Answer: Probably not what you'd think. The elevation of the military camp is 4000 feet, so it can be quite chilly, especially at night (lower 50s). Daytime on the volcano can range anywhere from mid 80s to low 60s. Plan for some chilly days and nights and lots of rain. In the coastal areas it will be warm. Pack several t-shirts, a few pairs of shorts, a sweatshirt and/or light jacket or Polartec, a couple of pairs of jeans or other field pants, comfortable walking shoes, hiking boots, and some sandals that are still comfortable and wearable when they're wet (like Texas).

10. If I can go, when do you need the deposit?

Answer: As soon as possible. The deposit will secure your spot on the trip. If you are "accepted" for the course but wait too long to pay your deposit, it is possible another student will take your place.

11. How much does it cost to audit the class?

Answer: In order to audit the class, you will need to pay a \$25 audit fee to Tarleton. You will not need to pay an additional \$25 fee to apply to the university, nor will you have to pay the approximately \$400 in tuition.

12. What if I want to stay longer?

Answer: You're buying your own plane ticket, so you can stay on the island as long as you'd like. You're responsible for all of your own expenses and transportation before and after the scheduled field trip. On the day I go home I commonly leave Hilo early and spend the day in Honolulu (on the island of Oahu). Pearl Harbor and Iolani Palace are worthwhile destinations. Ask for advice on buying your ticket if you want to do this.