

Student Evaluation of Course and Instructor Field Geology II SUMMER 2006
Department of Geological Sciences
GLG 452 Ln# 58133
Faculty: Tom Sharp/Ramon Arrowsmith

Teaching Assistant: **Nathan Toke**

In this document I address the student comments directly in italics after the comment (if needed). There were three teaching assistants and many of these comments are generally addressed at all of us. A confusing aspect of the reviews is that there were two Nathan's, where necessary I address this below. These comments are from my 2006 field camp TAs. I never received the comments from 2007.

Comments:

- Nate was extremely helpful in the field. He was often walking around and mapping especially in the first week. He helped a lot. In the office he was a little aloof, but still willing to help when needed.
 - *This comment did pertain to me I was probably the most field-oriented of the TAs and was constantly checking in with people to make sure they were making progress, especially at the beginning of the field camp. I recognize and remembered from my field camp that students take a little while before they get the hang of field work and need guidance at the beginning so they don't give up. Once it clicks they are usually good to go!*
- Overall: The TAs were fantastic. They really made the camp run well and be enjoyable. There was always help available and even a few ice cream deliveries to the field. I would love to give them huge thanks.
 - *Yes we got soft and provided some ice cream upon end of the day pickup.*
- The TAs were helpful. They were willing to give rides. They were able to proofread and answer questions in the "office." I could trust them to be knowledgeable in the area of study.
- The TAs were VERY helpful in explaining things, stayed up late in the classroom to help students, and provided invaluable transportation services to the students from sector to sector. Great job TAs!! Nate Toke: great TA.
 - *We did help a lot late in the evening, I didn't stay up as late as the other TAs sometime, but it was nice to see them improve throughout the course and I think it is partially because of our effort as TAs.*
- Yes, many of the TAs would stay up late hours with us to help correct our reports, check our figures, explain geologic concepts, etc. The TAs would also bring us food and coffee which was nice.
- All of the TAs were outstanding. Each had their strong points: Nate at report tuning.
 - *I tried to help students with editing language in their geologic reports. Often students try to say more than they should – over interpret – and can get themselves into trouble discussing things they don't know about*

(incorrectly). So I helped them avoid this, hopefully also teaching them a little bit about these topics as they came up.

- Nate did a great job. They were a little too vague on occasion. We were very tired and if a really dumb mistake is being made a well placed question could correct it before it comes to fruition. Nate was a little less approachable for me but things got better by the end. Poor Nate usually got caught a step behind but he was trying hard to be the first at the scene. All of the TA's had perfect attitudes and did all they could to maximize out time in the field and classroom.
 - *I think this person is addressing me (the correct Nathan), I suspect that I was a little less approachable in the office at the beginning of the class. However, this might have been in comparison to the other TAs which many of the students already knew from previous courses. Additionally, the other TAs had previously assisted and even taken this field camp in prior years, this was my first time. So I was learning the geology as I went along and was a little reluctant to tell them my hypotheses as they might have been incorrect.*
- Nate was helpful in the field and was readily available. He answered any questions thoroughly and helped clear up confusion in the field. He was encouraging and also helpful in class.
 - *Again I was trying to focus on the field aspect of the teaching. It is good to be recognized for this.*
- Yes, all of the TAs were willing to look over notes in terms of proper note taking ability, to review reports before the final turn in, and to give advice as to how to approach the current or upcoming sectors. In terms of in the field they were always listening to hear if students needed assistance in terms of campers in the area, wild animals, more water, etc.
 - *We encountered some campers with guns, a mountain lion and bears were active in the area. We just tried to make sure everyone was communicating and staying safe. Everyone did!*
- Yes the TAs were helpful in the field and the office. The other Nathan was very helpful in editing my field reports.
 - *Yes, I did not make myself as available as the other Nathan for report editing late at night. So I guess this must have been one of the midnight oilers.*
- All three TAs were helpful in the field, picking up and dropping us off at our locations. Nate helped me check and improve my cross section.
 - *Sometimes students have some issues keeping the cross sections to scale and using a consistent interpretation. I tried to help them with accuracy and consistency of interpretation as much as possible.*
- Nate appeared to have good field skills but didn't approach people too offer suggestions and advice.
 - *I am not sure I agree with the comment, but I was in the field the most of the TAs and I tried to at least make sure people were on track. If I was not providing suggestions and advice it usually meant that this group was on track and doing well already. This was probably just one of the excellent students!*