

3D Close Range Sensing of Arid Environments
Desert Studies Center program

Friday, March 27 – Arrival & Welcome

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

- Participant arrival & check-in
- Room assignments/camp orientation

8:00 PM – 8:30 PM

- Welcome session
- Overview of the course & schedule
- Meet the instructor & participants

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

- Icebreaker activities / informal networking
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Saturday, March 28 – Lectures & Fieldwork

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

- Breakfast

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

- Morning lectures

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

- Break/preparation for fieldwork

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Field session

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- Data analysis lecture

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- Data processing & analysis

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

- Dinner

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- Presentation preparation (group work)

After 9:00 PM

- Free time
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Sunday, March 29 – Presentations & Departure

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

- Group presentations

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

- Wrap-up discussion & feedback

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

- Lunch

After 12:00 PM

- Departure

WHAT TO BRING

Clothing (Desert-Ready)

- Lightweight, breathable clothes (for hot daytime)
- Warm layers (desert nights can get cold)
- Long-sleeve shirts & pants (sun + protection in field)
- Comfortable hiking/closed-toe shoes
- Extra socks & underwear
- Hat or cap (sun protection)
- Light jacket or hoodie

Fieldwork Essentials

- Reusable water bottle (**very important**)
- Backpack/daypack
- Notebook/field journal
- Pens, pencils, markers
- Phone or camera for documentation
- Measuring tools (if required by your course)

Data & Work Supplies

- Laptop + charger

Recommended Laptop Specs

- 32 GB of RAM preferred (16 GB minimum)
- 20–50 GB free storage
- Charger + mouse
- USB drive / external storage

Additional Requirement – Software Setup

Laptop Preparation (Required)

Please bring a laptop with the following software **installed and tested before arrival**:

- CloudCompare (<https://www.cloudcompare.org/>)
- Trial licenses for Pix4D (<https://support.pix4d.com/hc/how-to-get-a-trial-license-for-pix4d-products>) or Agisoft Metashape (<https://www.agisoft.com/downloads/installer/>)
 - Do not activate the trial licenses before the orientation day!
- **One of the following GIS tools:**
 - ArcGIS (*preferred if you already have a license*)
 - QGIS (*free alternative*)

Before You Arrive

- Install **at least one GIS platform** (ArcGIS or QGIS)
- Confirm all software opens and runs properly
- Test basic functions (open a dataset, visualize data)

Sun & Safety

- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Sunglasses
- Lip balm with SPF
- Personal first aid kit
- Any personal medications

Toiletries & Personal Items

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo
- Towel
- Shower sandals
- Hand sanitizer/wipes
- Flashlight or headlamp (desert gets very dark)
- Snacks
- Reusable coffee mug
- Blanket or sleeping comfort item