Geology 480 Lab Field Notebook Requirements

During Field Camp, you will be required to make entries into your field notebook. To receive full points for your notebook, your entries must include the following important information:

1. Exercise name (including class name if notebook is not being used exclusively for this class)
2. Date
3. Time
4. Location (be as specific as you can)
5. Weather (basics, such as temperature (guess), clear or cloudy skies, windy, snowy, rainy, etc.)
6. Partner
7. Map (to scale with location relative to roads, cities, whatever is a good landmark)
8. Objective (tell me what the project is about in a few sentences)
9. Data and Observations (important information, sketches)
10. Conclusions (what did you learn? what should you have done differently? etc.)

All pages must be numbered, and you must provide a table of contents. If you are missing any of this information, points will be taken off. Extra points will be given for added detail and meticulous work.

Field Book Grading Criteria

Your field book is one of your most important possessions in the field. Your notebook will be collected and graded after each field exercise, to help get you in the habit of taking good field notes. The following is a list of crucial components of good field notes:

Your book should be durable - it should have a bright yellow or orange cover so you can spot it easily when you put it down on a rock!

Write your contact info on the inside cover of your book. Very important in case you lose your book - and most of the time they will turn up.

Provide a table of contents in the first few pages of your book. If the book does not come with numbered pages, number them as you go along. This makes your table of contents much more useful.

Record date, weather, time, field partner (name and contact info). Location and name of project. Purpose of your study. Write a sentence or two.

Draw pictures such as maps and x-sections. Label everything (including but not limited to, north arrow, direction of view, scale, surface designation). Color is nice.

Notes from class or the book can be used in your field book if they are relevant and useful. Any charts and photos should be affixed to your notebook pages. Keep in mind that anything that you place in your book may one day become wet, muddy or washed away. You should either transcribe your charts or keep a second copy somewhere safe. Clear contact paper is a great way to keep things stuck down and fairly weatherproof.

Field notes should be thorough but concise.

1. When there is a lecturer, you need to write down information that is given to you in the field. Pay attention to location names and ages of geologic features. Most importantly, make your own interpretations. If you have questions write them in your field book so you can ask the instructor about it later.

2. Later on when you are recording your own data you will need to have legible data recorded in an organized fashion.
3. Take time and thought to interpret your surroundings. And please ask questions—accuracy counts!

End Result: an amazing field book! You and any other geologist will be able use your notes for future reference.

**More Field Pointers:**

Use a lead pencil to take notes. Pens and waterproof field books do not mix. Ever try writing with a pen on plastic? Same concept. Use H lead, which is a little harder than a regular #2 pencil. It doesn't smear as much. Erasable, color pencils are best (Col-erase® is ok, but Berol Verithin® is generally used since they are hard and waterproof. If your color pencil does not have an eraser, get a cap eraser and glue it on. It can be easy to lose simple things in the field, but if it's glued on you can't lose it. Or, you could make a hole in a large eraser, run a string through it, and wear it around your neck, on your belt, wherever. Always keep your field book in a large pocket where it can't be lost, and put your Brunton compass on a belt. Belt pouches to carry your notebook, pencils, etc, are also very handy. Photocopying notes after a field day is a very good habit. If you lose your field book, all is not lost.