

**Introduction to The Mojave Desert Tortoise
Online – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29 and 30, 2021
Draft Syllabus**

Friday October 29, Day one, 12:00 to 17:00 Pacific Standard Time

| Times (minutes) | Topic |
|-----------------|---|
| 12:00 (5) | Instruction on using ZOOM (David Hedrick) |
| 12:05 (10) | Welcome and Introduction, Course logistics and overview (Maggie Fusari) |
| 12:15 (10) | Course introductions (Ed LaRue) |
| 12:25 (65) | The Mojave Desert Tortoise: taxonomy, anatomy and physiology, ecological characteristics, habitats and distribution, seasonality, nutrition and feeding, reproduction, behaviors. (Dr. Kristin Berry) |
| 13:30 (10) | Q&A |
| 13:40 (20) | Break |
| 14:00 (35) | Threats to Tortoises (Dr. Michael Tuma) |
| 14:35 (10) | Q&A |
| 14:45 (35) | Field Evaluations of Desert Tortoises for Health and Disease; Effects of Diseases on Populations (Dr. Kristin Berry) |
| 15:20 (10) | Q&A |
| 15:30 (20) | Break |
| 15:50 (40) | Translocations: Issues and Options (Kristina Drake) |
| 16:30 (30) | Question and Answer panel (Ed LaRue and others) |
| 17:00 | End of session I |
| 18:30 (60) | Possible game evening, working on a plan |

Saturday October 30, Day two, 09:00 – 14:00 Pacific Standard Time

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| 09:00 (15) | Welcome to day two, assure all is working. (Ed LaRue, Dave Hedrick) |
| 09:15 (45) | Tortoise Field Surveys, Data Collection, and Interpretation (Dr. Alice Karl) |
| 10:00 (10) | Q&A |
| 10:10 (50) | Finding Tortoises and Distinguishing One Type of Sign from Another (Peter Woodman) |
| 11:00(30) | VIDEO on proper tortoise handling (Rachel Woodard) |
| 11:30 (10) | Q&A |
| 11:40 (20) | Break |
| 12:00 (30) | Overview of Permitting (Ray Bransfield) |
| 12:30 (10) | Q&A |
| 12:40 (30) | Resource Monitoring on Construction Projects (Ed LaRue) |

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| 13:10 (35) | Q&A (Ed Larue and others) with closing remarks on getting a job |
| ≅ 13:45 | End of Session II |

***Schedule is subject to change as needed by circumstances.**

DTC will offer an online symposium in February 2022.

We also welcome new members who want to support our conservation work.

See our website for details: <https://deserttortoise.org/>

Email intro-course@deserttortoise.org with issues or questions.

Paid participants have received a list of suggested references and a handout listing the various agencies that oversee various aspects of desert tortoise work in the field.

They will be expected to complete an online evaluation of the course.

Participants will receive certification of attendance by snail mail by the end of November **provided that we have correct addresses** and that the evaluation has been submitted.