

Ghost Towns of Southern Utah ICL Fall 2026 Class Syllabus

Dixie Campus, Utah Tech University (UTU)

Institute for Continued Learning, Email: icl@utahtech.edu, Phone: 435-652-7670

Office: 658 East 200 South St. George, UT 84770

Instructor: Loren Webb Email: lorenrwebb1980@gmail.com Phone: 435-632-0774

Classroom: Udvar Hazy Building, Room 121

Subject: Ghost Towns of Southern Utah

Suggested Textbooks:

Stephen Carr, *The Historical Guide to Utah Ghost Towns*, Western Epics, Salt Lake City, 1972.

George A. Thompson, *Some Dreams Die; Utah's Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures*, Dream Garden Press, Great Salt Lake City, 1982.

Peter Massey, Angela Titus, Jeanne Wilson, *Utah Ghost Towns, Mining Camps and the Wild West Frontier*, APC Publishing, Parker, Colo., 2022.

Course Description:

This class will provide an overview of ghost towns in Washington County and two ghost towns in Iron County, Utah. The course will cover reasons why these ghost towns failed, and why some of them came back to life. Ghost towns discussed will include: Atkinville, Bloomington, Camp Lorenzo, Price, Tonaquint, Harrisburg, Hamblin, Hebron, Dalton, Duncan's Retreat, Grafton, Adventure, Northrop and Shunesburg in Washington County and Irontown and Stateline in Iron County.

Course Schedule: Two in-class lectures will be held from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in Udvar Hazy Room 121.

The first in-class lecture will be held:

Friday, Sept. 18, 11 to 11:50 a.m. Introduction on exploration, settlement and abandonment of towns. Discussion of Atkinville, Price, Tonaquint and Bloomington.

Ghost Town Field Trips Schedule: All participants should (1) plan to arrive at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot at **7:45 a.m.** prior to the **8 a.m.** time of departure for instructions and directions. (2) It is highly recommended that participants carpool as much as possible, because some of the locations we will be traveling to, have limited parking availability. We will plan to leave on the field trip no later than 8:05 a.m. (3) Please do not sign up for a field trip if you know you can't attend.

(3) If you sign up for a field trip and you later find you cannot participate on that field trip, please email ICL Office Manager Christine Haynes at christine.haynes@utahtech.edu

Tuesday, Sept. 22, Field trip to Camp Lorenzo (Brigham City) **New this year!** Participants meet at 7:45 a.m. at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot to carpool to Camp Lorenzo, a

distance of 11 miles. Participants will drive north on 1000 East to St. George Boulevard, then east to the north onramp for Interstate 15 and northeast to the Washington City Main Street exit, then head south to Telegraph Street and then drive east to 300 East Telegraph and south on 300 East Street which turns into Washington Fields Road, then turn left (east) on Washington Dam Road for one mile before the road turns into a rough dirt road known as Pecan Road and drive northeast one more mile to south 5400 West where we will turn off the dirt road into a dirt parking area. We will then walk $\frac{1}{8}$ of a mile to a lookout site to view the two-story pioneer structure on the north side of the Virgin River where I will discuss the site's history. Suggest participants bring digital cameras with a telephoto lens and binoculars. Arrive back in St. George by 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 29, Hebron Cemetery. Participants meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot to carpool to the Hebron Cemetery site. We will leave at **8 a.m.**

Participants will drive north on State Route 18 to Enterprise, Utah, then drive about 5-6 miles* west on SR 120, then turn north and drive two miles to the Hebron Cemetery. The owner of the cemetery will meet us there and share lecture time with me. **Note:** There may be a small stream of water you will need to cross to reach the cemetery. On most occasions, a passenger car can easily make it across the stream. But it is always good to check weather conditions prior to making the trip. We will also travel to the nearby Terry Ranch (about 9-10 miles* west of Enterprise on SR 120) to discuss highlights of the ranch's founding. Arrive back in St. George by 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, Field trip to Grafton. Participants meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot. We will leave at **8 a.m.** to carpool on I-15 north 26 miles* to the Toquerville (Anderson Junction) exit, then drive about 9 miles south on SR 17 to the Zion National Park junction in LaVerkin, then drive another 15 miles* to Rockville and take the Rockville Bridge road south and drive south and southwest 5-6 miles* to Grafton. We will tour the Grafton School house, the Alonzo Russell home and the Grafton Cemetery. On our return trip, we will travel west 6.2 miles on SR 9 to a short pullout to see the Nancy Ferguson Ott historic grave monument. Arrive back in St. George by 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13, Field trip to Harrisburg (part of the original townsite is now within the Red Cliffs National Recreation Area). Participants meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot to carpool about 19 miles* to Leeds. We will leave at **8 a.m.** We will then travel 2 miles to Harrisburg, then turn right (west) and go under the I-15 underpass, then turn right and park at White Reef Trailhead parking lot. We will then shuttle participants using two vehicles to the two parking spaces in front of the Orson Adams House where BLM archaeologist Katie

Cleek will provide details on the history of the Adams House at or shortly before 9 a.m. (*The BLM will open up the Adams house and may or may not be able to give the presentation depending on their regulations).

Finally, we will drive ½ mile back to Harrisburg Town where we will view and discuss the remains of another pioneer structure and walk ¼ mile to the cemetery located within the confines of the Harrisburg RV Resort where we will view grave sites. Arrive back in St. George by 12 p.m.

The second in-class lecture will be held in Udvar Hazy Room 121:

Friday, Oct. 23, 11 to 11:50 a.m. This lecture will focus on the ghost towns of Dalton, Mountain Dell, Adventure, Northrop, Duncan's Retreat, Shunesburg and Zion.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, Field trip to Silver Reef. Participants meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot. We will leave at **8 a.m.**, to carpool north on I-15, 19 miles* to Leeds, then drive northeast through Leeds about 2-3 miles before turning left under the I-15 underpass and drive 2 miles to the *Silver Reef Museum*. **Note: All participants will be required to pay a \$4 entrance fee to enter the museum** and listen to the history of Silver Reef from a docent. Arrive back in St. George by 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, Field trip to Stateline and Irontown in Iron County, Utah. Participants meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the far east side of the Udvar Hazy parking lot. We will leave at **8 a.m.** to carpool north 51 miles on SR 18 to Beryl Junction, then turn west on SR 56 and drive 16.4 miles* to Modena, Utah where we will stop and briefly discuss this town's history, then drive north about one mile on a dirt road to the Modena Cemetery where we will stop to view graves. Then we will travel about 15 miles* north on a BLM dirt road to an unmarked junction, then drive one to two miles west to Stateline ghost town. Where we will learn about the town's history.

We will then drive 16 miles south to SR 56, then drive 34.9 miles* east to the Old Irontown Historic Site where we will learn more about its history. All wheel drive or 4WD vehicles are recommended on the BLM dirt road, although passenger cars could conceivably make the trip, depending on road conditions. Arrive back in St. George by 3:30 or 4 p.m.

Preparation for field trips and emergencies

Because field trips to remote locations in Washington and Iron counties involve some inherent risks, particularly when traveling on dirt or gravel roads, it is always a good idea to carry a spare tire, carry plenty of water and a first aid kit. Also be aware of the potential for flood conditions and prepare accordingly. Don't take your passenger car on roads that require 4WD or high clearance vehicles. **For emergencies**, you may wish to call Utah Tech University Security

Police at 435-627-4300, the Washington County Sheriff's Department at 435-656-6500, or the Iron County Sheriff's Department at 435-867-7500 or call 911. * Distances are approximate.