

UTSA Honors College

HON 3253



Trailblazing the National Parks 2027

We're going international!



- Required coursework meetings
 - Tue Feb 2 (online, 1 hr, TBD)
 - Tue May 4 (on campus, 1 hr, TBD)
 - Tue July 6 (online 6:30-8:00 PM)
 - Tue July 13 (online 6:30-8:00 PM)
 - Tue July 20 (online 6:30-8:00 PM)
 - **Sat** July 24 (ELL 10AM-2:00PM)
- Trip July 27-Aug 6, 2027

Who?

Dr. Karen Engates



Honors Faculty
Lead
Instructor/Creator
HON 3253

TEN Terrific...
UTSA Honors College
Undergraduate Students
Good standing
Sense of Adventure
Adaptable & Engaging
All majors
Graduating Fall 2027 or later

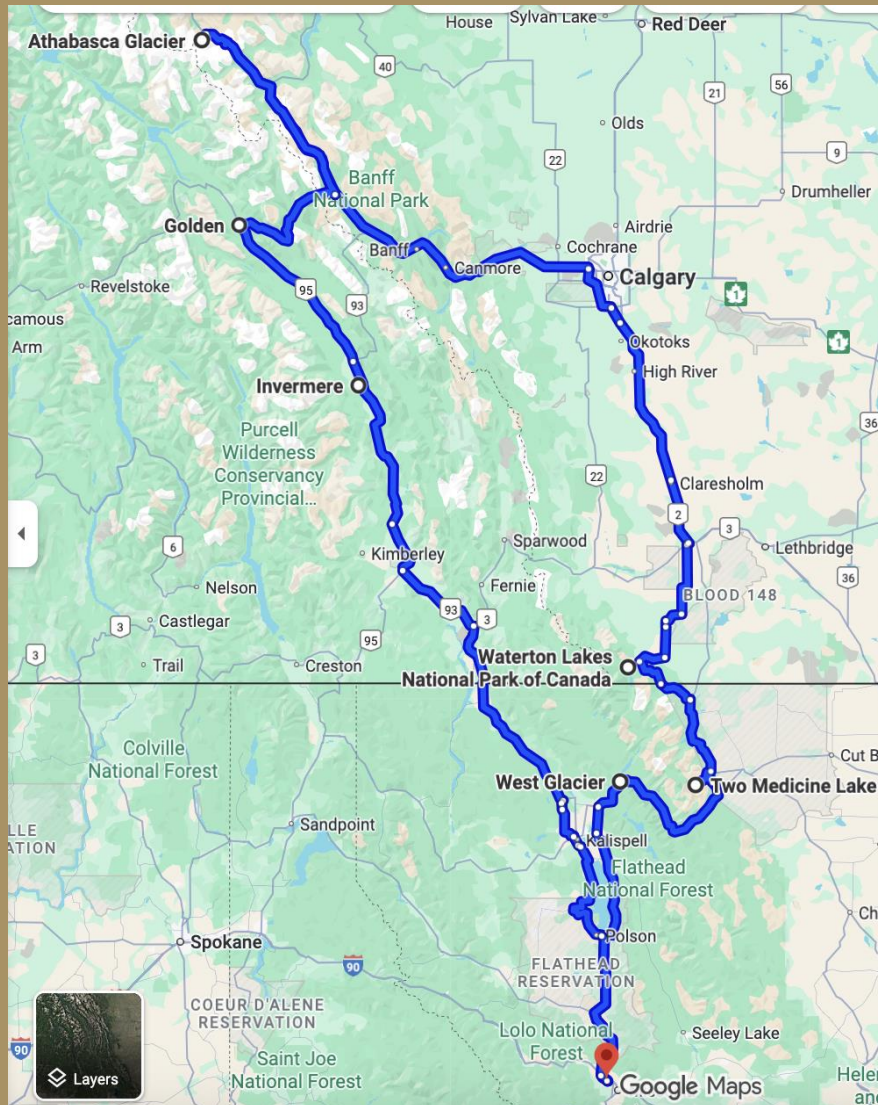
Instructor #2



TBD



Where?



- 1700+ miles
- Glacier NP (MT, USA)
- Canadian NPs:
 - Waterton-Glacier NP
 - Banff NP
 - Jasper NP
 - Yoho NP
 - Kootenay NP

WE ARE STAYING IN CABINS AND AIR B&Bs!

Activities

- Outdoor-focused: hiking, water sports, park service, wildlife spotting
- Confluences, park programming, student-led activities, student project



Engaged Living & Experiential Learning

- Life-changing learning experience in diverse landscapes
- Investigate how humans interact with and value nature
- Confront challenges on hikes, tours, exhibits, historic places
- Explore significance of parks and why we need to protect them



MINIMALISM IS A MUST



- Passport (exp. 1/28/28 or later)
- Hiking boots
- No checked bag!
 - UTSA-approved bag + your backpack ONLY
- Low/no-cost UTSA gear rental
 - backpack, sleeping bag, headlamp, trek poles
- **EXTREMELY LIMITED SPACE**

Things to consider

Ideal:

- Positive outlook
- Excited to be outdoors
- Fitness level
- Self care
- Adaptable
- Willing to learn
- Contribute to group
- Early start times
- Be on time and prepared
- Tech disconnect

Not ideal

- High drama
- Negativity
- Afraid of animals, heights, cold/hot temps, water
- Uncontrollable car/motion sickness
- High maintenance
- Thinking this is a vacation or an easy 'A'

Pre-trip Meetings (20%)



Project (10%)



Journal Entries (20%)



Grading

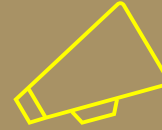


Participation & Behavior (50%)

Cost

- **Student pays:**
 - Trailblazing program fee \$750 (due Jan 15)
 - MYO cabin meals (\$?), laundry (~\$10), passport, souvenirs
 - Summer tuition + fees for 3 credit hours (varies)
- **Honors College pays international insurance (~\$25) + study abroad fee (~\$225)**
- **You must apply for ELA award in Scholarship Hub before program acceptance as part of application process (up to \$750 towards tuition)**

Timeline



LOTS OF INFO & HINTS!

- **Fall 2026:** View website, apply for ELA now(!), start working on Word application
- **Dec 15-Dec 31:** Completed Word application + Fall 2026 final grades transcript to: karen.engates@utsa.edu
- **Dec 16-31:** 20-min Zoom interviews
- **Jan 1:** 10 students chosen + waitlist
- **By Jan 15, 2027:** Accept invite, submit \$750 Trailblazing program fee
- **Feb (TBD):** Complete study abroad portal info + Feb 2 Zoom mtg
- **March (TBD):** course registration
- **April (TBD):** mandatory study abroad pre-orientation online meeting
- **May 14:** show at least 25% tuition & fees payment + May 4 mtg
- **July 6:** show 100% tuition & fees payment
- **July 6,13,20,24:** class meetings
- **July 27-Aug 6:** Trip

The screenshot shows the UT San Antonio website. The header includes the UTSA logo and navigation links: Join Honors, Academics, Scholarships & Resources, Programs, Student Life, Faculty, and About. Below the header, there's a section titled "Trailblazing the National Parks" with a sub-header "The summer 2026 Honors College Trailblazing the National Parks course (HON 3253) investigates landscape, history, and cultures of Glacier National Park (USA) and five Canadian National Parks (Waterton Lakes, Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Yoho) in an experiential learning course. Grab your hiking boots, warm layers, and passport!". To the right, there's a sidebar with "Honors Programs" and "College-Based Honors Programs".

View More Info & Application

Overview	+
Terms & Deadlines, Application Link	+
Accommodations	+
Cost & Scholarships	+
Academics	+



Attend a Zoom information session!

Wed, Sept 16, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/91455800239>

Wed, Oct 14, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/98675723095>

Wed, Nov 18, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/98551265198>

Questions?

Dr. Engates (Dr. E)

Karen.engates@utsa.edu

(programming, gear, logistics)

Stacie Garza

Stacie.Garza@utsa.edu

(HC scholarships, ELA, fiscal resources)

Attend a Zoom information session!

Wed, Sept 16, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/91455800239>

Wed, Oct 14, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/98675723095>

Wed, Nov 18, 2026, 12:00-12:30 PM CT <https://utsa.zoom.us/j/98551265198>

