

Course Description - PEO 412 – Leading in Nature

Leading in Nature is a central course in an integrated set of courses designed to prepare students for leading outdoor pursuits activities. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the natural history of the region while helping develop teaching and environmental interpretation skills.

The course components include lecture/discussion sessions and two one-day outings. Students should be prepared for substantive readings, assignments, and a peer group teaching. Classroom sessions, activities, and the field outings provide opportunities to learn about the environment and to develop and practice outdoor teaching techniques.

The focus of this course is on the natural history of Oregon (with an emphasis on oak/savanna, coastal old growth and western Cascades old growth ecosystems) and on developing outdoor teaching skills. Course topics include: environmental philosophies, ecological concepts, teaching strategies for outdoor settings, natural history, ethnobotany, and environmental interpretation. There will be some emphasis placed on using a taxonomic key to identify native trees and shrubs.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites

PEO 285 Wilderness Survival and Department consent is required to participate in this course.

Learning Outcomes

The Outdoor Pursuits Program emphasizes safe and responsible participation in outdoor activities. Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Teach one concept about the natural world using techniques that engage the learner.
2. Identify 30+ species of native flora and fauna, their ecological and anthropological roles.
3. Use a taxonomic key to identify broad-leaf trees and shrubs in western Oregon habitats
4. Describe the role of local climate, geology, forest succession, river morphology, and fire in shaping the landscapes of western Oregon.
5. Describe 3 ways how improving observational skills of the natural environment will make them become better outdoor leaders.
6. Describe the ecological roles species play in an ecosystem, including but not limited to: fungi, mosses/liverworts, lichen, ferns, etc.
7. Describe and identify 6 major habitats (dunes, woodland, riparian, savanna, prairie, old-growth) of the Oregon landscape, as well as the species that inhabit those habitats.
8. Explain several perspectives in the field of environmental philosophy.
9. Identify 5 medicinal plant species, 5 toxic (to humans) species, and 5 other edible species.

Course Goals

1. Students will gain a base knowledge of the natural world and learn techniques to share that knowledge with others.
2. Students will understand that their perspective of the natural world is only one of many perspectives and that understanding the viewpoint of others can help them communicate the importance of protecting our natural world.
3. Students will understand that a knowledge of the natural world is necessary for outdoor leaders both in terms of safety and for the protection of our natural resources.
4. Students will learn species native to the PNW and understand what those species indicate about the environment they are in.
5. Students will receive an introduction to the medicinal, traditional, and culinary uses of some native and local plants.

Course Resources

1. *Shrubs to Know in Pacific Northwest Forests* by Edward Jensen
2. *Trees to Know in Pacific Northwest Forests* by Edward Jensen
3. Field Journal (Large Rite-in-the-Rain preferred, Moleskin, composition notebooks acceptable. Must be bound)
4. Canvas has all other course resources for assignments (readings, videos etc.).

Evaluative Criteria	Points
<p>Participation and Attendance (1.5 points per class session (8 weeks), 4 for each day of outings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participation is active. Passive students are not recommended for this course. You will be required to be engaged in the materials, participate in the activities, and contribute to the discussions.</i> • <i>Cell phones and laptops are not to be used during class sessions.</i> 	20
<p>Reading Homework/Class preparation (2 points per assignment, 5 assignments total)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assigned readings should be read prior to class. Canvas has the course readings broken up by weeks. Required assignments are adjacent to the readings.</i> • <i>Submission of student teaching plan will count as one assignment.</i> • <i>Assignments should be in your own words, answer the questions and include images, drawings or diagrams that help to explain the concept.</i> • <i>Homework assignments are due beginning of class session, and can be turned in as a typed hard copy or written by hand in class journal.</i> 	10
<p>Weekly Sit-spot Journal (1.5 points per submission, 6 total, 1 point for submitting sit spot location week 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sit-spot location must be approved by course instructor in week 2.</i> • <i>All sit spot journals will be hand written in course journal.</i> • <i>Each submission will contain a minimum of one picture or sketch, and one to two full pages of observations (approx. 300 words). Due at the beginning of the following class session.</i> 	10
<p>Weekly Reflection (Follows all guidelines given on Canvas – 1 pt each, 5 points for final class reflection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Two pages written in course journal (approx. 250 words), should be a thoughtful reflection of the previous Mondays class discussion and lecture.</i> • <i>Due beginning of class session the following week.</i> • <i>A reflection will be due every class, except the first and last class sessions. There is one due for both days of the outing, due the follow Monday. (Note: there are two reflections due week 6).</i> • <i>Weekly reflection prompts will be given at the end of every class session.</i> • <i>Final reflection outlines will be given during week 7.</i> 	12
<p>Final Project (See below for detailed descriptions of project guidelines)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students will have a chance to display all that they've learned from the course to create one final, compact, comprehensive project that can serve as a useful nature guide for a natural space.</i> • <i>Final project must be submitted by Sunday of week 8 by midnight (May 28th).</i> 	18
<p>Comprehensive Final Quiz (To be held during class hours week 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Including plant identification, and written exam on topics from the course, student teachings.</i> 	15
<p>Student Teaching (See Canvas for detailed description of requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Teaching a 25 minute lesson on a specific plant or an ecological concept.</i> • <i>Submission of a completed lesson plan one week prior to the delivery of your 25 minute teaching.</i> • <i>Submission of an informational handout for the other students in the class (Must bring enough copies for all the students).</i> • <i>For student teaching requirements see documents on Canvas.</i> • <i>Student teaching lesson plan outline and handout must be typed and submitted to Canvas <u>one week before the teaching.</u></i> 	15
Total	100

Grading Baselines - Students:

- Are permitted to miss one classroom session (except sessions specified by the instructor).
- Must participate fully in both one-day outings. Compliance with OPP Attendance and Participation policies is required.
- Must attain a cumulative score on the evaluative criteria of at least 70 of the 100 possible points.

Assignments: Submissions and other written work turned in late will be subject to the following point reduction schedule:

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| a) Submitted 1 minute to 24 hours after deadline; | - 25% |
| b) Submitted 24:01- 48 hrs. later; | - 50% |
| c) Submitted any later time; | -100% |

Final Project Guidelines

The final project will be a self-guided nature walk of a natural space within the state of Oregon (some examples: Mt. Pisgah, Spencer Butte, Skinner Butte, Willamette River Trail, Pre's Trail, Smith Rock, etc.) The nature guide should include a variety of topics covered throughout the course. The nature walk will be presented on an 8" x 11" or 11" x 17" handout, either handwritten or computer generated. The handout must include at least 10 points of interest. Some examples include: plants, common animal sightings, geological formations, viewpoints, etc. The handout must include a map, pictures/drawings, and a brief description of the area. The handout must include 100% original content and may not copy content from existing nature walks or guides. An example can be found on Canvas. The final project is worth 18% of the final course grade and will be submitted Sunday of week 8 by midnight (May 28th).

Grading Scale

A+ 100-96; A 95-93, A- 92-90; B+ 89-86, B = 85-83, B- 82-80; C+ 79-76, C = 75-73, C- 72-70; D = 65-69; F = <65

NOTE: A final grade of C or better is necessary to meet the requirements of the OPP Leadership Training Program.

Demands, Requirements, Expectations, and Policies – Field Outings

A. Prior to participation in the weekend day outings you are required to:

1. Attend the required classroom sessions.
2. Submit pre-outing assignments on time and in acceptable (passing) form.
3. Read, understand, and sign the Statement of Risk, Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability document, Health Information form, and Outing Policies document, allowing enough time to thoroughly read each document and bring any questions you may have to the course instructor. It is your responsibility to provide your instructors with information regarding injuries, surgeries, medications, or other special considerations that may affect your participation in this course.
4. Arrive at the outing departure point on time and with all of the required clothing, equipment and learning resources. Gear and clothing requirements will be outlined during class sessions. Transportation for the outing to the Oregon coast is covered in the cost of the course.

B. As a participant in the outing component of this course, you are expected to:

1. Monitor your health and comfort, eat and drink regularly, and inform your instructors if you become uncomfortable or exceed your limits of personal safety.
2. Refrain from using illicit drugs and alcohol, carrying firearms, and bringing pets of any kind. Our outing participation policies regarding alcohol, illicit drugs and firearms are "zero tolerance". Do not anticipate lenience or exceptions. Failure to abide by these policies may result in a permanent grade of "F" or "NP" in the course and and/or a formal complaint registered with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.
3. Wear a seat belt AT ALL TIMES while riding in State vehicles.
4. Remember that you are participating in a tax-supported public program. Help us maintain a good image by being sensible in attire and behavior when near members of the public.
5. Comply with the Program's policy on use of cell phones, music players and other personal electronic devices. Policies regarding the use of personal electronics will be discussed during class sessions.

C. You participate at your own risk. You are strongly encouraged to obtain health insurance prior to participation in the outing component of this course. You may be asked to secure a physician's statement clearing you to participate in this course.

Additional Information

1. If participation is disallowed due to failure to meet the requirements for participation specified above, or because you chose not to participate in the outing for any reason, fees will NOT be refunded. Refunds are subject to the refund schedule established by the Registrar's Office.
2. In compliance with University policies, an "I" can be given only when a relatively minor part of a course is not completed. Therefore, if you do not participate in the outing component, an "I" is not an option. If you cannot attend the outing, drop the course as soon as possible.
3. The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. Any UO employee who becomes aware that such behavior is occurring has a duty to report that information to their supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. The University Health Center and University Counseling and Testing Center can provide assistance and have a greater ability to work confidentially with students.
4. This outing is conducted according to the requirements of a Special Use Permit administered by the United States Forest Service.

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Assistants: Adrian Swain
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Week	Topics	Notes
Week 1	Introduction to course/expectations Environmental philosophies	Course texts available at the bookstore Purchase journal for sit spot Location: Classroom
Week 2	Cultivating Presence Conifers	First reflection, sit-spot journal and location due Reading: Presence Location: Gerlinger Courtyard
Week 3	Geology, Nature & Well-being Conifer Review Student Teaching: Douglas-fir	Reflection and first sit-spot journal entry due Reading: Geology Location: Classroom
Week 4	Keying Plants & Taking from Nature Student Teaching: Local Mammals	Reflection and sit-spot entry due Bring your course texts to class weekly! Location: Natural History Museum
Week 5	Riparian Habitat & Local Fauna Observational Learning Student Teaching: Introduction to Birds	Reflection and sit-spot entry due Location: Frohnmayer Footbridge
Outings: Saturday May 6th and Sunday May 7th Meet in front of Esslinger Hall at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday; 9am on Sunday at Mt. Pisgah (Carpool: \$4 per car)		
Saturday	Coastal Old Growth Forest Poisonous Plants Student Teachings: Lichen, Forest Ecology, Fungi	Reading: Wildcrafting & Oregon Coast Meet in front of Esslinger Hall at 7:00. Bring food, water, a sit upon, and protection from the elements!
Sunday	Savanna & Prairie Habitat Wildflowers & Wildcrafting Student Teaching: Pollinators, Oregon White Oak	Meet at Mt. Pisgah at 9 AM. Bring lunch and sit-upon.
Week 6	Weather & Fear of Nature Fire Ecology Student Teaching: Ferns	Reflection(Week 5 and Weekend) and sit-spot entry due Reading: Fire Ecology Location: Museum of Natural History
Week 7	Plants Review Student Teaching: Big Leaf Maple, Mosses & Liverworts	Reflection and sit-spot entry due Location: East Deady Hall
Week 8	Comprehensive Final Quiz	Final Reflection, Final Sit-spot journal due Location: Classroom
Week 9	NO CLASS THIS WEEK	Submit final projects to canvas by <u>Sunday May 28th, 2017</u>