

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON • PE & REC DEPARTMENT • Outdoor Pursuits Program

PEO 412 - Leading in Nature Syllabus

http://opp.uoregon.edu/professional/ld_nat/lead_in_nature.html

Course Description

Leading in Nature is a central course in an integrated set of courses designed to prepare students for leading outdoor pursuits activities. The focus of the course is on the natural history of the regions explored on program field outings, and on developing outdoor teaching and leadership skills. The course components include lecture/discussion/lab sessions and two one-day outings.

Prerequisites / Corequisites

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 the course the student should be able to:

1. Define the term environmental education and distinguish between ecosystematic and ekistic relationships.
2. Demonstrate a general understanding of the major geologic, hydrologic and climatologic processes leading to the formation of the Oregon landscape.
3. Utilize a taxonomic key to identify flora, with an emphasis on trees and shrubs commonly found in the Willamette Valley and Oregon coast.
4. Identify the most common trees and shrubs of the ecosystems that we explore.
5. Demonstrate a general understanding of the ecological make-up of oak/savanna, coastal old growth and western Cascades old growth ecosystems.
6. Explain the role of weather systems, succession and fire in shaping the diversity and characteristics of our forest ecosystems.
7. Develop a detailed lesson plan outlining behavioral objectives, subject content, and instructional strategy for teaching an environmental education lesson to a peer group.

Evaluative Criteria

This is a graded only course. Students will be evaluated in the following areas. Details will be provided in class sessions.

1. <i>Reading Responses - 2</i>	20% - 10% per response.
2. <i>Teaching</i>	15%
3. <i>Lesson Plan</i>	10%
4. <i>Lesson Informational Handout</i>	10%
5. <i>Keying Examination</i>	15%
6. <i>Final Examination</i>	30%

Grading Baselines - Students:

- a) Are permitted to miss one classroom session (except sessions specified by the instructor).
- b) Must participate fully in both one-day outings. Compliance with OPP Attendance and Participation policies is required.
- c) 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:

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

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.

Course Resources

1. Course readings, articles, elect resources and assignments are available on the course website.
2. *Trees To Know in Oregon* AND *Shrubs To Know in Pacific Northwest Forests*, both by Edward C. Jensen are required texts.

Demands, Requirements, Expectations, and Policies – Field Outings

A. Prior to participation in the weekend field 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. Saturday's outing to the coast is conducted according to the requirements of a Special Use Permit administered by the United States Forest Service.

Instructor: Michael Strong

Office: 186 A Esslinger (346-1048)

Office Hours: Monday 3:00 - 4:50 & Tuesday 3:00 - 4:50

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Weekly Schedule

DATE	TOPICS	NOTES
WEEK 1	Introduction to course Definitions and relationships West coast weather <u>READINGS</u> <i>Definitions and relationships</i> <i>Northwest climate</i> <i>Weather basics</i> <i>Climate</i> (by Mathews) <i>Conifers</i>	Course texts at the Bookstore Course packet available on course website
WEEK 2	Teaching in the outdoors Expectations for teaching and lesson plans Using a taxonomic key - practice using a key <u>READINGS</u> <i>Lesson Plan and Information Sheet Templates and Examples</i>	Sign up for a teaching topic Bring course texts on campus walks
WEEK 3	Formation of the Oregon landscape Student teaching (1) Campus Walk - practice using a key <u>READINGS</u> <i>Plate tectonics</i> <i>Cascadia fault</i>	
WEEK 4	Forest ecology Student teaching (1) <u>READINGS</u> <i>The Keys to Understanding</i> (article for reading assignment) <i>Old growth forest</i>	Reading assignment #1 due by start of class (digital submission via email attachment)
WEEK 5	Fire ecology Student teaching (1) Outing preparation <u>READINGS</u> <i>Benefits of Fire</i> <i>Fire History by Matthews</i> <i>The Valley of the Long Grasses</i> (article for reading assignment #2)	Participant agreements (health/waiver forms) Reading assign #2 due by 5:00 p.m. Friday May 4 (digital submission via email attachment)
SATURDAY MAY 5 & SUNDAY MAY 6- FIELD OUTINGS		
	Meet in front of Esslinger Hall at _____ on Saturday; _____ on Sunday	Student Teaching (TBD)
WEEK 6	No class	
WEEK 7	Review and keying practice Keying examination	

WEEK 8

Final written examination

Oral final exam to be conducted in class