

PEO 285 - WILDERNESS SURVIVAL COURSE SYLLABUS

<http://opp.uoregon.edu/wild/wildsurvival.html>

Description

Wilderness Survival is the Outdoor Pursuits Program's entry or "gateway" course. It is designed to prepare students for participation in a wide range of outdoor pursuits activities, and is a prerequisite to participation in our wilderness and backcountry courses.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: *Michael Strong* Office/Telephone: *186 Esslinger Hall - 346-1048* E-mail: mstrong@uoregon.edu

Office Hours – **ALL TERMS** – *Tuesday and Wednesday 1500-1550 (or by appointment)*

Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify the main mechanisms of heat loss and gain and maintain comfort during activity in adverse weather conditions.
- Demonstrate the ability to read a topographic map, with emphasis on reading contour lines, recognizing landform features, and estimating elevation gains and losses.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform basic map and compass skills, including: measuring and plotting bearings on a topo map.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic backcountry safety and survival skills, including trip planning considerations, equipment selection, outdoor travel and survival skills, encounters with wild animals, and what to do if lost.
- Explain the general effects of altitude on human performance.
- Describe the appropriate steps for maximizing safety during a lightning storm.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the causes, prevention and treatment of cold injuries (hypothermia and trench foot), heat injuries, dehydration, heat exhaustion), and sun injuries (sunburn and snow-blindness).
- Explain the nutrition and hydration requirements necessary for a safe and enjoyable backcountry experience. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using chemicals, boiling and filtration as methods for treating backcountry water sources.
- Describe the backcountry ethics associated with leave no trace (LNT) travel and camping. Identify the major impacts resulting from human use of wilderness and backcountry areas and describe methods for minimizing these impacts.
- Describe the management focus of the federal agencies responsible for managing wilderness and backcountry recreation lands.

Evaluative Criteria – CONSISTENTLY GOOD PERFORMANCE IS REQUIRED TO PASS THIS COURSE!

Quizzes - 45 pts: 5 points – first day quiz

40 points from quizzes on the previous class' material – 8 points per quiz – top 5 scores recorded (6 quizzes total)

Worksheet: 15 points - specific to map and compass skills

Final Exam: 40 points – comprehensive exam covering all course topics.

If your final score is between grading categories (e.g. 93-92, 80-79, etc.), the letter grade will be rounded up if the score is .5 and greater and rounded down if it is less than .5.

THIS IS A GRADED COURSE. PASS/NO PASS IS NOT AN OPTION.

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

1. A minimum overall grade of C- is required on the COMBINED course evaluative criteria in order to register for and participate in OPP courses for which Wilderness Survival is a prerequisite - in other words, all of our backcountry courses. If you earn a D or F, you will be automatically blocked from registering for a backcountry course during the online registration process. An overall grade of D cannot be made up - the course must be repeated if you plan on participating in any course for which WS is a prerequisite.
2. TAKE THE FINAL EXAM SERIOUSLY. Expect to pass the exam only if you have thoroughly reviewed the question pools and are completely confident of your ability to demonstrate proficiency in map reading and basic map and compass use.

In-Class Quizzes

1. Six in-class quizzes will be conducted on the previous class session's lecture/readings content during classes #2 through #7. Eight points are assigned per quiz. You can apply your five highest scores to your grade. If you attend a class but miss the quiz because you left early or arrived late (if the quiz is conducted at the front or tail end of the class), you lose the points.
2. Quizzes CANNOT be made up. Period. Please do not ask for an exception. Attendance will not be taken. If you miss more than two quizzes your chances of passing the course are extremely slim, unless you score highly on the worksheet and the final examination.

Map and Compass Worksheet

1. The worksheet must be submitted by the deadline specified on the course schedule. Worksheets submitted late WILL NOT be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS. Worksheets are graded immediately after submission and scores posted to the website soon thereafter.
2. Worksheets will not be reviewed in class. Worksheets will be handed back during the class session following the submission date. DO NOT discard your worksheet until after you have checked to see that the right score has been entered into Canvas.
3. Allow a sufficient amount of time to complete the worksheet. A good score on the worksheet will likely put you in good position for the final exam and reinforce the skills required to pass the exam. A poorly completed and incomplete worksheet will GREATLY reduce the likelihood that you will pass this course.

Course Resources:

1. Course packet: available at EITHER the UO Bookstore OR via the course website. Most web site documents are password-protected. The password is provided in the first class session.
2. Compass: for in-class practice sessions and completing the worksheet and final examination. Compasses are available for purchase from the Duck Store in the Student Recreation Center.
4. Ruler and pen or pencil: for practicing map and compass skills, completing the worksheet and taking the final exam, and paper: for quizzes.

Please note:

1. The course Canvas site will be used ONLY for posting scores on quizzes and the worksheet. If you do not have access to Canvas, you will not be able to view your quiz scores online.

Course Schedule - The lectures cover most but not all of the material. The readings contain information pertinent to lectures and quizzes.

Week	Subject	Readings/Quiz Prep and Notes
WK 1	Course introduction, grading and expectations	Course description/syllabus
	Thermoregulation and dressing for the outdoors.....	'Thermoregulation' and 'Dressing for the Outdoors' by M. Strong
WK 2	Nutrition & hydration.....	'Nutrition & hydration requirements for outdoor activity' by M. Strong
	Cold Injuries.....	'Cold Injuries' by M. Strong
	Heat and sun-induced injuries	'Heat and sun-induced injuries' by M. Strong
WK 3	Maps and map reading.....	Part ONE of 'Map and compass' by M. Strong
	Introduction to the compass	Part TWO of 'Map and compass' by M. Strong
WK 4	Map and compass techniques	Part THREE of 'Map and compass' by M. Strong
		Bring your compass to class!
		You are strongly encouraged to attend this session!
WK 5	Backcountry ethics and practices.....	'Leave No Trace Ethics' by M. Strong
	Water treatment	'Water treatment' by M. Strong
	Wilderness and wilderness management.....	'Wilderness' by M. Strong
WK 6	Worksheets due at the START of class! Note the late penalty! See course description for details.	
	Safety and survival techniques and equipment	'Survival tips for the Pacific northwest' by J. Blanchard & M. Strong
	Animal hazards	'Bears and Cougars' by J. Blanchard and M. Strong
	Plants/insect hazards	'Poison Oak' by M. Strong
		'Ticks and Tick diseases' by M. Strong
WK 7	Outdoor activity at altitude	'Altitude Illness' by M. Strong
	Lightning.....	'Lightning' by M. Strong
	The OPP question and answer session	
	Final exam preparation	
WK 8	Final examination	Bring your compass, a ruler, and a pen
		Please complete online course evaluation

Computer, tablet and cell phone use is prohibited during classroom sessions!