

SEMINAR: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF OREGON—GEOG 607

Spring 2012 Term, University of Oregon

Course Registration Number: 37094 (4 credits, Pass/No Pass Only for all students)

Seminar: Friday, 9:00am – 11:50am, Condon 207

Instructor: Dr. Mark A. Fonstad

Office: 107F Condon Hall

Office Phone: 541-346-4208

Instructor Office Hours: Wednesdays 1pm -2pm, Thursdays 11am – 12 noon

This seminar will survey modern research on the physical geography of Oregon, and work to place these works into the context of the overall history and spatial patterning of the physical environments of the state. We will have three overarching goals as we review the research.

- (1) To put modern Oregon physical geography research into the context of the overall geologic, climatologic, and biologic histories of Oregon.
- (2) To connect the history and geography of Oregon's physical environment with modern human-environmental issues, and with the associated areas of knowledge that being actively researched in dealing with these issues.
- (3) To explore how narratives of Oregon's physical geography can be communicated to the public in a dynamic audiovisual manner in order to best raise awareness of Oregon's diverse environment, facilitate discussions on environmental issues in the state, and to teach basic physical geography to a broad audience.

REQUIRED READINGS

The required textbook for this class is: Loy et al., 2001, *Atlas of Oregon (2nd Edition)*.

University of Oregon Press, 301 pp. We will be using this atlas extensively for both its maps and the informational text that accompanies the maps. The Atlas is out of print, but copies should be available from Amazon.com, and also places such as the Smith Family Bookstore. There is also a CD-ROM version that should be useable. In addition to the Atlas of Oregon, most weeks will feature discussion on more than one journal article or related text, as well as one documentary film segment, and these will be distributed to students electronically.

GRADES

This seminar is a Pass/No-Pass Only course. The determination of Pass/No-Pass will be based on the following components: (1) class participation, measured in terms of active engagement with weekly readings and viewings discussion in class, (2) a 30-minute documentary film term project, developed by a pair or small team of class members, and focusing on a physical geography of Oregon topic and written for the educated public. A “Pass” for this course requires satisfactory effort for both of these components.

FIELD TRIPS

This class will have associated field trips in support of both the weekly reading materials. These field trips are not required, but they are strongly encouraged, and early in the term I will be asking students to make a decision on whether they will attend these field trips so that we can make logistical plans. The first field trip will be a Coast Range excursion held as part of the Bretz Club meeting in Coos Bay. The second field trip will be a one-day trip around the southern end of the Willamette Valley. The third trip will be a two-day field excursion (Friday and Saturday) to the east side of the Cascade Range, including Fort Rock, Silver Lake, Paisley Caves, Hole-in-the-Ground, Lake Abert, Summer Lake (& Hot Springs), amongst other possibilities. Tentative dates are in the schedule below.

TERM PROJECT

Because a large component of this seminar is the subject of communicating complex, large-area geographical knowledge, the term projects will be student-produced documentary films on a physical geography of Oregon subject.

LATE/MAKE-UP WORK

Late work will not be accepted and make-up work will not be assigned, except in extreme circumstances and where you have documentation (i.e. doctor’s note). If you must miss a project deadline due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, you **MUST** notify the instructor prior to missing if possible.

DISABILITY SERVICES NOTICE

I work hard to ensure a quality learning experience for all students. If you need specific accommodations to get the most out of this class, please let me know by (1) informing me of your particular needs, and (2) providing the appropriate documentation from the campus learning services office. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs, but you must notify me by the first week of class if you need special arrangements.

NOTE: I consider this syllabus a contract between myself and the students in this course. In writing this syllabus, I have obligated myself to follow the policies and procedures contained herein. You are responsible for understanding and following these policies as well. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. You will receive verbal and written notification of major changes to course policies, procedures and content.

(VERY) TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	DISCUSSED READINGS & FILM SEGMENTS
6-April	Class overview, Geological History of Oregon I	No readings Living Planet, Planet Earth clips in class
13-April	No Class – Bretz Club & <i>Saturday Field Trip</i>	Film Decisions & Experiments
20-April	Geological History of Oregon II	Atlas 188-147 Liu & Stegman, 2012, Nature, 482(7385) Kelsey et al., 2005, GSA Bull, 117(7-8) Oregon: A Geologic History website Baraka clip, Essence of Life Film
27-April	Climatology of Oregon	Atlas 154-161 Dugas, 1998, Quat Res., 50(3) Worona & Whitlock, 1995., GSA Bull, 107 Long et al., 1998, Can.Jour.For.Res. 28. Ken Burns's National Park clips
4-May	Quaternary Environments of Oregon <i>Potential Saturday Field Trip – Willamette Valley</i>	Atlas 132 -141 (Review) Peterson et al., 2007, Geomorph, 91(1-2) Hart & Peterson, 2007, ESPL, 32(2) Marcott et al., 2009, Quat. Res., 71(2) Himalaya, Doctors in the Death Zone clips
11-May	Geomorphology and Hydrology of Oregon	Atlas 162-171 Jefferson et al., 2010, ESPL, 35(7) Luo & Tomasz, 2008, Geomorph, 99(1-4) Personius, 1995, Jour. Geo. Res. 100(B10) Cosmos clip
18-May	Geomorphology II, and Ecosystems of Oregon	Atlas 172-191 Safran et al., 2011, GSA Bull, 123(9-10) Wemple et al., 2001, ESPL, 26(2) Almond et al., 2007, Jour. Geophy. Res. 112 Nova Flood! clip
25-May	<i>Friday-Saturday Field Trip to the "East Side"</i>	Brand & Clarke, 2009, Jour. Volc. Geo. Res. 180(2-4) Kuehn & Negrini, 2010, Geosphere, 6(4) Gasland clip
1-June	Biogeography and Soils in Oregon	Atlas 148-153 Ohmann & Spies, 1998, Ecol. Mono. 68(2) Wimberly, 2002, Can. Jour. For. Res. 32(8) Jones et al., 2004, Geosci Can., 31(4)
8-June	Draft Film Viewing Day	
12-June	FINAL PROJECTS DUE, 10:15am	No Readings