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RECM 495.90: Winter Wilderness Field Studies

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Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Syllabus

Goals

Students will understand Wilderness values, definitions, issues, management strategies, ecology, and traditional skills as they relate to the Mission Mountains Wilderness.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define their personal and legal definitions for Wilderness
- Recall threats to designated Wilderness
- Understand winter-related wilderness management issues
- Comprehend community based stewardship in the Swan Valley
- Demonstrate LNT winter camping skills
- Practice outdoor leadership skills including group dynamics and decision-making
- Demonstrate backcountry medicine principles applicable to winter travel
- Practice avalanche safety techniques and backcountry medicine techniques before and during the backcountry trip
- Measure and monitor winter recreation use
- Identify wildlife tracks, travel patterns, and local ecology of an alpine habitat.
- Understand and apply the fundamentals of risk assessment
- Understand differences in wilderness management between east and west slopes of the Mission Mountains Wilderness

Course content:

This course includes a backcountry and classroom component. Students will stay at the Condon Work Center in the front-country and ski or snowshoe in the backcountry. This course explores natural resource management issues and outdoor leadership in the Swan Valley and the Mission Mountain Tribal Wilderness. Students will study community-based stewardship, winter ecology, fundamentals of snow and avalanche science, mountain meteorology, outdoor leadership, group dynamics and decision-making, risk assessment, and Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness history. Activities include classroom and field lectures, discussion, visits with local Swan Valley residents, winter recreation monitoring, basic winter wilderness skills and emergency care, and a three-day backcountry trip.

Evaluation of student course work

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand personal and legal definitions for Wilderness
- Students will understand threats to designated Wilderness

- Students will understand winter-related wilderness management issues
- Students will understand and apply outdoor leadership skills including group dynamics and decision-making
- Students will understand community based stewardship in the Swan Valley
- Students will understand winter ecology principles
- Students will understand the fundamentals of snow and avalanche science
- Students will understand how to conduct winter recreation monitoring
- Students will understand the fundamentals of risk assessment as it applies to outdoor education
- Students will understand differences in wilderness management between east and west slopes of the Mission Mountains Wilderness
- Students will understand backcountry medicine principles applicable to winter travel
- Students will understand and practice winter wilderness skills, especially as they apply to Leave No Trace principles

Assessment

Undergraduate Credit: Evaluation Criteria & Grading

- 50% Skill development, class participation, attitude, and performance in the field and in the classroom
- 50% written essay exam covering reading assignments, lectures, videos and activities (both indoors and outdoors)

Undergraduate students are responsible for reading assignments on due dates and may be called upon to lead a group discussion.

Graduate Credit: Evaluation Criteria & Grading

- 25% Skill development, class participation, attitude, and performance in the field and in the classroom
- 25% written essay exam covering reading assignments, lectures, videos and activities (both indoors and outdoors)
- 50% research paper

Students receiving graduate credit are responsible for reading assignments on due dates and may be called upon to lead a group discussion. Students receiving graduate credit are required to submit an original research term paper at the end of the course. The paper should address a relevant wilderness issue (prescribed burning, fee demonstration, wildlife reintroduction, etc.), and be about 15 pages in length. The paper must include cited sources, and be of publishable quality, written in a standard format (such as Journal of Forestry, Journal of Leisure Research, or American Psychological Association, etc.).

Grading

1. This course will be using a plus/minus grading system. Valid grades and their grade point values per credit are shown below:

Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA
A	94 – 100 %	4.0	C+	77 – 79%	2.3	D-	60 – 62%	0.7
A-	90 – 93 %	3.7	C	73 – 76%	2.0	F	< 60 %	0.00
B+	87 – 89 %	3.3	C-	70 – 72%	1.7			
B	83 – 86 %	3.0	D+	67 – 69%	1.3			
B-	80 – 82 %	2.7	D	63 – 66%	1.0			

Meeting dates

January 4 to January 8

January 11 to January 15

Students meet from 8 AM to 5PM, and 7 PM to 10 PM daily

Enrollment limit

Enrollment is limited to 12 students due to housing availability at the Condon Work Center and group size limits in the Mission Mountain Wilderness.

TENTATIVE 2010 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Syllabus

Week One

Monday, 01/04

Arrive Condon @ 10 a.m., Welcome & Introductions, Course expectations
Tour facilities & get settled. Swan Ecosystem Center, Anne Dahl

Afternoon: Field activities (nature trail-winter ecology; winter wilderness skills)

Evening Program: “Wild by Law” video, reading assignments

Tuesday, 01/05 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast, Wilderness Management Lecture and activities;
Andrew Johnson, USFS, guest speaker

Afternoon: Visit with Bud Moore, Coyote Forest (community-based stewardship)

Evening Program: “Snowshoeing” & “Arctic Dreams” video, Group Meeting, reading assignments

Wednesday, 01/06 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast, Trip planning and gear shake down, Route planning, mapping activity

Backcountry Medicine, Trenton, Aerie School for Backcountry Medicine

Afternoon: Backcountry Medicine...continued

Evening Program: “American Values, American Wilderness” video and reading assignments

Thursday, 01/07 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast

Wilderness Management: “Threats to Wilderness,” Kari Gunderson

Afternoon: Ski and snowshoeing field trip

Evening Program: Group Meeting, Avalanche videos, reading assignments

Friday, 01/08 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast

Discussion on Rescue-Free Wilderness, Kari Gunderson

Avalanche Awareness, Leah Taylor, U.S. Forest Service

Afternoon: Avalanche Awareness...continued

Group Meeting, clean up facilities, depart from Condon for home by 4 PM



2010 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Syllabus

Week Two

Monday, 01/11

Arrive Condon @ 10 a.m.

Morning: Forecast

Winter LNT Principles and Winter Camping; Tribal Wilderness. Germaine White & Lester Big Crane, Salish/Kootenai Tribal Natural Resources Program, Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness (11 AM)

Afternoon: Trip Planning and Preparation

Evening Program: Trip Preparation

Tuesday, 01/12 Depart at 8 am for Cold Lakes, Mission Mountains Wilderness

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Winter ecology, group dynamics & leadership, winter wilderness skills, and monitoring

Wednesday, 01/13

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Dig snow pit, snow analysis, build snow shelter, group dynamics & leadership, avalanche awareness, winter wilderness skills, monitoring, and winter ecology

Thursday, 01/14

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Group dynamics & leadership, avalanche awareness, winter wilderness skills, and monitoring

Return to Condon

Preparation for essay assignment, complete course evaluation

Friday, 01/15, Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Trip Debriefing session, Essay Assignment

Afternoon: Group Closure activity, clean up facilities

Depart by 4 PM



2010 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Readings

Monday, January 4, 2010

- Mission Mountains East
- Guide to the Mission Mountains Wilderness
- Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness: A Case Study

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

- Hypothermia: The Insidious Cold
- Notes on Hypothermia, Cold Injuries, and Dehydration
- LNT Winter Use Principles
- Winter Camping & Backpacking Tips

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

- Management Dilemmas That Will Shape Wilderness in the 21st Century
- Stewardship to Address Threats to Wilderness Resources & Values
- The Montana Legacy Project/Swan Watershed Map

Thursday, January 7, 2010

- Rescue-Free Wilderness Areas
- Incident Reports for the Mission Mountains Wilderness