

Reading the Landscape

of Wild Oregon

With a six-day field experience the week before fall classes

LA 465/565 Advanced Landscape Ecology • Fall 2006 • 4 Credits • P/NP
Instructor: Bart Johnson • Department of Landscape Architecture
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Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. LA 4/541 preferred.

This course explores ideas, experiences and ecology of wildness and wilderness. It culminates in a group backcountry experience as we explore and interpret the landscape of an Oregon wilderness.

We will engage in a variety of activities to sharpen our skills at understanding and “reading” the landscape -- investigating the interwoven patterns and processes of the landscape and how they are expressed at different spatial and temporal scales and in the context of human experience. We will consider landscape history and human societies to understand how past events have shaped the landscape we see today, and how today's activities shape the landscape of the future. In the evenings, we will take time to reflect on the meaning of wilderness and other wild places, of how culture and ecology interact to create places, and may discuss selected readings.

Prerequisite: *Permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 11 students.* Selection criteria will include level of ecological background, and relevant educational goals and directions. Participants must be in adequate physical condition for highly active hiking and camping. Interested students should contact Chad Bush in the Landscape Architecture office to get their names on the initial sign-up list. Be sure to leave a phone number and email address in case we need to contact you.

Course Fee: There will be a course fee of \$50 to cover such expenses as van rental, campground and trail user fees, and materials and supplies for field work. This fee will be billed directly through the university as part of tuition. Because space is limited, registration requires responsibility: the course fee may not be refundable if a cancellation is made during the month prior to the trip and no replacement student can be found.

Course Format:

We will explore a large landscape, most likely in the Three Sisters Wilderness or the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. As we hike and tour, several guests may join us to share their knowledge and expertise. Specific activities will depend in part on student interests, and on where our discoveries lead us. Course goals include:

- Sharpen perceptual skills to recognize relationships among landform and vegetation patterns, and ecological processes, in mountain ecosystems
- Examine the meanings and values of wildness and wilderness as individuals and for society
- Understand how the life history strategies of different species interact through processes of competition, dispersal, succession and disturbance to create, maintain and change ecological communities
- Enhance observation and awareness skills through processes of discovery
- Study recreational impacts and solutions for fragile mountain ecosystems
- Develop orienteering skills -- using compasses, maps and air photos to discern and arrive at places of special interest
- Classify and assess vegetation using aerial photos, maps and ground-truthing

The trip should not be overly strenuous for active individuals in good shape. If you are not, then getting into shape, breaking in new boots, etc. may be necessary to make sure that you can comfortably keep up with the group. Safety is of the utmost importance. Each individual will be expected to act in the best interest of the group through care and caution, and so as to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the rest of the group. Any student who wishes to participate in the class, and has a documented disability or other concerns about the trip should contact the instructor.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attend an information meeting as well as an additional organizational meeting during spring quarter. We will have a final potluck and slide show during fall quarter.
- Read an assigned book and selected essays over the summer and complete a series of short written assignments based on readings and experiential exercises
- Submit a research paper on a topic of their choice prior to the start of class (see below) and present their findings at a selected time during the field trip
- Participate fully in group activities, meal and trip preparation, etc.
- Supply themselves with all necessary gear and clothing for camping and backpacking. We will coordinate on shared equipment such as tents and stoves, and on meals.
- Engage in low-impact hiking and camping
- Act responsibly and respectfully at all times

Logistics

We will depart Sunday morning September 17 and return Friday evening, September 22

We will camp five nights in the backcountry. We will most likely backpack in the Three Sisters Wilderness on the west side of the Cascade Mountains, or else the Kalmiopsis Wilderness of the Siskiyou Mountains in southwest Oregon.

Research paper – due Monday Sept. 11, 5:00 PM

Each student will be responsible for researching a selected topic for which they will become the resident expert on the trip. During the class we will pool our knowledge to better understand the patterns and processes we see around us. We will decide who investigates what as a group so that we cover major topics and issues, such as:

- Geology, soils and topography
- Climate and weather
- Hydrology
- Stream and lake ecology
- Land uses, management and post-settlement cultural history
- Native American landscape history
- Recreational impacts (Hiking, camping, horses, low impact approaches)
- Wilderness perceptions
- Endangered species
- Air photo interpretation (current and historical)
- Vegetation zones and classification
- Plant and animal communities
- Paleovegetation
- Forest dynamics (including fire)
- Alpine and subalpine plant communities
- Rock outcrop and scree communities

Each student will prepare the following:

- A 5-10 page paper on their selected topic plus handouts submitted one week prior to the first day of class. The paper should be well-written and concise. You should strive to link your topic to the landscape we will visit as much as you can, and to provide a creative, synthetic analysis that applies your topic to class goals.
- An annotated bibliography of materials used in the paper
- Supplementary materials, maps, diagrams, short excerpts, etc. (two copies)

READINGS AND RESERVE

LA 465/565 Advanced Landscape Ecology • Bart Johnson
Dept of Landscape Architecture • University of Oregon

The Required Coursebook:

Mathews, Daniel. 1999. *Cascade-Olympic natural history: a trailside reference*. 2nd edition. Portland, OR: Raven Editions. *Read entire book over the summer –parsing it out to 1-3 chapters/week according to your schedule.*

Recommended Texts (with required readings)

Adams, Cass, ed. 1996. *The soul unearthed: celebrating wildness and personal renewal through nature*. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam. BL65.N35 S68 2002

Basso, Keith. 1996. *Wisdom sits in places: landscape and language among the Western Apache*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. PM2583 .B39 1996

LA 4/545 Wilderness Reader, available at the UO bookstore

Observing Place

Selections from: Paetzel, Mary. 1998. *Spirit of the Siskiyou: the journals of a mountain naturalist*. Corvallis : Oregon State University Press. QH104.5.S545 P24 1998.

Nature and Culture, Wilderness and Wildness

Selections from:

Cronon, William. 1996. *The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature*. P. 69-90, In, W. Cronon ed., *Uncommon ground : rethinking the human place in nature*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. GE195 .U53 1996

Neumann, Roderick. 1995. *Ways of seeing Africa: Colonial recasting of African society and landscape*. *Ecumene : a journal of environment, culture, meaning* 2(2): 149-169.

Oates, David. 2003. *Paradise wild : reimagining American nature*. Corvallis : Oregon State University Press. GF21 .O33 2003. Read p. 24-54, chapters on *Wilderness* and *Paradise Lost*.

Soulé, Michael E. and Gary Lease. 1995. *Reinventing nature?: responses to postmodern deconstruction*. Washington, D.C. : Island Press. GE40 .R45 1995. Read Ch. 6, *Cultural parallax in viewing North American habitats* by Gary Paul Nabhan; Ch. 8, *Resolute biocentrism: the dilemma of wilderness in national parks* by David M. Graber; Ch. 9, *The social siege of nature* by Michael E. Soulé. P. 87-101, P. 123-135, P. 137-170.

Turner, Jack. 1996. *The Abstract Wild*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona press. QH81 .T87 1996. Read Ch. 2, *The abstract wild: a rant*, and Ch. 6, *In wilderness is the preservation of the world*. P. 19-37, P. 81-92.

High Cascades Reserve Binder (RSRV AAA -- AB JOHNSON 1)

User Survey and Campsite Monitoring Forms. Willamette National Forest.

Hall, T, Rolloff, D. and J. Dedrick. 1997. Six-year trends in wilderness uses and users: Changes at three locations in two Oregon wildernesses. Report submitted to Willamette and Deschutes National Forests. 86 pp. Packet also includes three User Survey forms.

Other books and resources of interest

Cole, David N, et al. 1997. High-use destinations in wilderness [microform] : social and biophysical impacts, visitor responses, and management options. Ogden, UT (324 25th St., Ogden 84401) : U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. A 13.78:INT-RP-496

Hatton, Raymond R. 1996. Oregon's Sisters Country : A Portrait Of Its Lands, Waters, And People. Bend, OR: Geographical Books. F882.S568 H38 1996

Helfrich, Prince. Tales of the Oregon Cascades / by Prince Helfrich Hillsborough, CA: Natural World Press, 1990.

NOLS. 1996. Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics, Pacific Northwest. Lander, Wyoming: National Outdoor Leadership School. There is a website for LNT: <http://www.lnt.org>

Whitney, Stephen. 1983. A field guide to the Cascades & Olympics. Seattle: Mountaineers, c1983. SCI. REF. QH105.W2W47 1983 LIB USE ONLY or KNIGHT REF QH105.W2W47 1983 LIB USE ONLY

Hatton, Raymond R. 1994. Sisters Country Weather And Climate / Raymond R. Hatton. Publisher Bend, OR: Maverick Publications. OR.COLL. QC984.O72 S57 1994 LIB USE ONLY

Yocom, Charles Frederick and Vinson Brown. 1971. Wildlife and plants of the Cascades, covering most of the common wildlife and plants of the Pacific Northwest and the area of the lava beds. Healdsburg, CA: Naturegraph Publishers. AAA QH104.5.C3Y6