GEOG 295 - Syllabus
Geographic Field Research

Fall 2015 - Field Dates: September 11-19 - 3 Credits

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Catalog course description.  GEOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH (3). Two-week course taught in the fall program in various locations throughout the west. Collect and analyze data associated with both human and physical geography. Lec/lab. PREREQS: 9 credits of lower division GEOG (Geography majors) or GEO (Earth Science majors).


Course Description
Field-based research is an integral aspect of geographic inquiry. This course is designed to provide undergraduate geography majors with an introduction to research question formulation and some of the different methods and approaches (ways of collecting and analyzing data) used in the discipline to answer questions. The field component of the course will be split between the Hatfield Marine Science Center on the Oregon Coast, the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest in the Oregon Cascades, and the OSU Cascades campus in Bend--allowing students to experience different landscapes, research problems, types of data, and methods first-hand.

Students will be encouraged to observe the world around them while identifying research objects, events or issues of interest, developing questions about them, and discovering ways to answer their questions. We will carry out field exercises and students will develop their own questions and present results orally and in written form. The overall objective of the course is to help students understand what theory based geographic data collection and research design involves, enabling them to assess the research of others and develop their own research projects.

Course topics and issues will include:
- linkages between theory, research design, and methodology
- guidelines for asking researchable questions
- methods for collecting specific types of data about physical and cultural landscapes
- strategies for representing and analyzing different types of data
- ethical obligations associated with research
- options for disseminating research findings

Resources:


- Several additional readings, including some optional selections, will be made available on the course blackboard site. Pay close attention to the due dates for these readings as they apply to our daily schedule. Two to three readings will be required to be read by the start of the course.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Develop researchable questions related to geography.

- Identify and describe basic research methods for collecting data regarding physical landscapes, vegetation, climate, water quantity and quality, cultural landscapes, hazards and human-environment relations.

- Acquire and demonstrate an understanding of specialized language relevant to geographic field methods.

- Synthesize and describe key concepts associated with field methods.

- Communicate verbally, and through oral presentation and writing, key concepts, techniques and theoretical motivations associated with different geographic field research methods.

- Construct and articulate a summary of knowledge acquired from assigned readings and lectures used to analyze and solve problems in field exercises.
Identify a specific field method of interest and assess the necessary steps in the research process from creation, application and evaluation in an academic article using that method.

-Evaluate the relative merits of different field research methods

Logistics and Schedule
This course will take place during the week of Sept 11-19, with a follow-up sessions during Fall term. Our schedule and plan will be discussed at our first meeting at 10am Friday, September 11th.

Course Fee
A course fee of $240 is required to pay for the cost of transportation, lodging and supplies during the 7 day field component of the course. You will be responsible for your own meals.* We will shop as a group and collaborate on cooking and cleaning duties.

Prerequisities
The course is available to all undergraduate students who have completed 9 credits of lower division GEOG or GEO.

Grades and Assessment*
Key Methods Group Presentation Individual Research Presentation Research Proposal Participation

Total
*More about these assignments and responsibilities at the first course meeting

You must have health insurance to be able to attend this course! Proof of insurance will be necessary before the course begins or on the first day (9/11).

If you have a conflict between religious observances and field days, please let us know in advance so these can be made up.

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not
required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

**Behavior:** The goal of Oregon State University is to provide students with the knowledge, skill and wisdom they need to contribute to society. Our rules are formulated to guarantee each student's freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others. People must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and will be referred to the Student Conduct Program for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office.

**Academic Honesty:** Students benefit from studying together, and we encourage you to do this. However, work that is to be turned in for a grade **must be your own unless otherwise stated** – it must not be a copy of anyone else's work (either of another student or anyone else). Work to be done on your own in this course includes: (1) laboratory assignments 3 and 7; (2) in-class exercises; (3) quizzes; and of course (4) exams. If you are uncertain about what constitutes copying or academic dishonesty of any kind, ask a TA or the instructor. Every year that this course has been taught the professor has made at least one official report of academic dishonesty. These reports are serious matters, and result in the student's college and the university being notified that the student has been involved in academic dishonesty. **If you cheat and we catch you, you will be reported.**

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

* **cheating:** use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
* **fabrication:** falsification or invention of any information
* **assisting:** helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
* **tampering:** altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
* **plagiarism:** representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct, i.e., cheating policies: [http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0](http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0)