

PEOL 286 - Backpacking Preparation

opp.uoregon.edu

Outing Course Description

A. General Description

This is a course designed to prepare students for participation in the backpacking outings, including Backcountry Navigation and Backcountry Survival during fall terms and Backpacking 1 and Ultralight Backpacking during spring terms. Topics include a detailed review of clothing and equipment needs, map and compass practice, fitness and conditioning, and trip planning and preparation.

B. The Physical Environment

This course takes place entirely on campus. There are classroom sessions each week, and a fitness test (two mile run) on campus prior to each outing.

Prerequisites/Corequisites to Participation

PEOL 285 Wilderness Survival is a prerequisite to participation in this course. There are no exceptions to the Wilderness Survival requirement.

Backpacking Preparation is designed as a corequisite for the first backpacking course in which a student enrolls. Therefore, one of these courses (PEOL 351 Backpacking 1, PEOL 355 Ultralight Backpacking, PEOL 399 Backcountry Navigation, or PEOL 392 Backcountry Survival) must be enrolled in simultaneously with the first enrollment in PEOL 286 Backpacking Preparation.

All participants in PEOL Backpacking Preparation must attend the first session, certain pre-outing sessions, and the post outing session. Those who have not taken Backpacking Preparation in a previous term will need to attend all of the classroom sessions that are required for the outing(s) in which the student is enrolled. Those who have taken Backpacking Preparation in a previous term must attend the first session, certain pre-outing sessions, and the post outing session. However, those who have taken Backpacking Preparation in a previous term (and now have a "P" or "I" for this course on their transcripts) should not re-enroll in the course.

Course Objectives

The Outdoor Pursuits Program emphasizes safe and responsible participation in outdoor activities. In addition to meeting the objectives of prerequisite and corequisite courses, upon completion of this course participants should be able to:

- 1.) identify potential areas, trails and facilities for hiking and backpacking using USFS and other planimetric and topographic maps,
- 2.) accurately interpret a route designated by the instructor on a topographic map, and evaluate the route in terms of travel difficulty, transit time, hazards, escape routes and suitability for foot travel,
- 3.) explain the equipment needs of both individuals and groups on day, overnight, and extended trips, and be able to develop a complete list of clothing and equipment given a trip description,
- 4.) explain the significance of the weather and microclimate variations in terms of mountain travel and camping,
- 5.) demonstrate a working knowledge of legal and reference descriptions of locations,
- 6.) demonstrate the ability to construct an accurate profile of terrain from a topographic map, including calculation and interpretation of percentage slope.,
- 7.) demonstrate an understanding of basic solar and stellar navigation,
- 8.) demonstrate an understanding of the fitness requirements of backpacking and of conditioning methods for this activity, and
- 9.) demonstrate an adequate fitness level for the type of backpacking experience included in the outing.

Evaluative Criteria

This is a pass/no-pass course. To be considered for a passing grade, participants must:

- 1.) attend the first class session and miss not more than one (1) of the remaining lecture sessions.,
- 2.) submit all written assignments on time,
- 3.) pass the final exam, and .
- 4.) attain a score of 80% or higher on the evaluative criteria.

Course Instructor

Jim Blanchard: 172 Gerlinger Annex; 346-3399; jrb@oregon.uoregon.edu