

University of Oregon • Physical Education and Recreation • Outdoor Pursuits Program

PEOL 399 - Backcountry Photography Outing

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Outing Course Description

A. General Description

This course takes advantage of Eugene's unique location, midway between the coast and the Cascades. The three day outing includes a visit to several spectacular environments, including the rocky shores and tide pools of the coast, an overnight backpacking trip to the dunes, coastal forests and lakes, and a day exploring some of the most beautiful waterfalls on the McKenzie River. Weather permitting, we'll also drive up into the realm of late spring snow. There will be ample opportunities to practice the skills covered in the Outdoor Photography Preparation course, in small groups assisted by the instructors.

B. The Physical Environment

Spring weather in Oregon can change rapidly. Sunny, summer like weather can quickly change to heavy rain. High winds are common on the coast, and below-freezing temperatures are not unusual in the Cascades. Hazards encountered on our coastal hikes will include unexpected high "sneaker" waves, which have repeatedly in the past washed people off the rocks and into the sea. Tsunamis, though uncommon, are another risk of traveling along the beaches. In the Cascades we'll be walking on sometimes steep terrain along the upper McKenzie River, known for it's fast currents and icy water. We'll also be scrambling around try to get good pictures of the waterfalls. Safe travel in these conditions requires proper clothing and equipment, careful navigation and route selection, and constant self-monitoring one's physical condition.

Prerequisites/Corequisites to Participation

PEOL 285 Wilderness Survival and PEOL 351 Backpacking 1 Outing are prerequisites to participation. Backpacking experience equivalent to the PEOL 351 Backpacking 1 Outing may be accepted in lieu of taking the PEOL 351 Backpacking 1 Outing, at the discretion of the instructor. There are no exceptions to the PEOL 285 Wilderness Survival requirement.

PEOL 399 Backpacking Photography Preparation is a co-requisite to the PEOL 399 Backcountry Photography Outing course.

All participants in PEOL 399 Backcountry Photography Outing must attend the first session of Backcountry Photography Preparation, certain pre-outing sessions, and the post outing session. Those who have taken Backpacking Photography Outing in a previous term (and now have a "P" or "I" for this course on their transcripts) should not re-enroll in the course.

All participants must have access to:

- 1.) a film or digital camera with exposure controls,
- 2.) enough film or storage media (and batteries) for a three day outing, and
- 3.) a manual for the camera (These are usually available on the internet).

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 demonstrate an understanding of:

- 1.) the effects of temperature, humidity, and other environmental elements on cameras, film, media, and methods for protecting photographic equipment and media in the field,
- 2.) techniques for protecting and storing film and digital images on extended remote trips,
- 3.) basic photographic concepts, including exposure control and the effects of aperture, shutter speed, and depth of field,
- 4.) the effects of natural lighting, the prediction of light quality by time, location, and weather,
- 5.) compensation for lighting differences, (including the use of flash units),

6.) techniques for photographing animals, plants and trees, and landscapes, and

7.) techniques for photographing the night sky.

Evaluative Criteria

Students enrolled for credit will be graded in the following areas. The instructor will provide specific information.

Fitness Test: Run two-miles in 20 minutes or less during a scheduled class session prior to the outing.

Gear and clothing preparation: Arrive on time at the meeting point with all of the required items of clothing and equipment.

Outing participation: Full attendance, and compliance with OPP Attendance and Participation policies is required. You will also be evaluated on your personal organization and contribution to the group effort.

Competence: Competence must be demonstrated by demonstration of achievement of not less than 80% of the above listed course objectives.

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

- 1.) attend the entire outing.
- 2.) attend the post-outing meeting. No exceptions!
- 3.) attain a score of 80% or higher on the evaluative criteria.

Outing Demands, Requirements, Expectations, and Policies

This outing is only moderately demanding in terms of the amount of effort required to reach our campsite and follow our intended routes. However, some of the terrain is steep and slippery. Poor footwear, lack of balance, or inattention could result in a fall into the sea, the McKenzie River, or over a cliff.

There is also a real risk to camera gear. Participants should take precautions to protect their gear from damage during transportation and on hikes, with particular attention to protecting the gear from saltwater and sand. We will also encounter conditions that promote condensation. Suggestions for protecting gear will be provided in class, but it is the participant's responsibility to obtain and employ protective containers and use appropriate techniques to prevent damage to equipment.

It's imperative that you understand what is required of you in terms of preparation, fitness, physical comfort, attitude, and conduct. **MOST IMPORTANT!** Safety is our first concern and must be yours as well. Attend the outing only if you feel mentally and physically prepared and are willing and able to assume full responsibility for your own safety. Never assume that the leadership team knows everything, always make good decisions, or can solve every problem for you. Your safety depends upon your alertness and good sense. We encourage you to maintain a questioning attitude! If you are unsure of something, ask!

A. Prior to participation in the outing you are required to:

- 1.) attend the required preparation sessions,
- 2.) submit all required trip plan worksheets or other course assignments on time and in acceptable (passing) form,
- 3.) meet the course fitness requirements by running 2 miles in less than 20 minutes during a pre-outing classroom session (or meet director approved alternative criteria),
- 4.) read, understand, and sign the *Statement of Risk, Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability* document, *Health Information* form, and *Outing Policies* document, allowing enough time to thoroughly read each document and bring any questions you may have to the course instructor, and

5.) arrive at the outing departure point on time and with all of the required clothing and equipment. It is your responsibility to meet the course instructor's gear and clothing specifications. We suggest that you verify the acceptability of each item well in advance of the departure date. The Outdoor Pursuits Program maintains a limited supply of certain items for student use at no charge. You must provide your own equipment unless we happen to have the items you need. Rentals are available locally. You must also provide your own food. Transportation is covered in the cost of the course.

B. As a participant in this outing course, you are expected to:

- 1.) monitor your health and comfort, eat and drink regularly, and inform your instructor if you become uncomfortable or exceed your limits of personal safety. Your enjoyment of the course will be improved by maintaining a positive attitude and by being mentally prepared for a new set of challenges each day,
- 2.) know and practice minimum impact camping techniques specific to the winter environment,
- 3.) refrain from using illicit drugs and alcohol, carrying firearms, and bringing pets of any kind. Our outing participation policies regarding alcohol, illicit drugs and firearms are "zero tolerance". Do not anticipate lenience or exceptions. Failure to abide by these policies may result in a permanent grade of "F" or "NP" in the course and and/or a formal complaint registered with the Office of Student Life.
- 4.) wear a seat belt AT ALL TIMES while riding in State vehicles, and
- 5.) remember that you are participating in a tax-supported public program. Help us maintain a good image by being sensible in attire and behavior when near members of the public.

C. You will not be allowed to participate in the outing if you:

- 1.) miss any required preparation course sessions,
- 2.) fail to submit the required worksheet(s) and/or written assignments,
- 3.) fail the fitness test, or
- 4.) arrive at the outing with inadequate equipment or if, in the instructor's opinion, your participation (for whatever reason) could compromise your or the group's safety.

D. You are strongly encouraged to obtain health insurance prior to participation in this outing.

Policy On Issuing Incompletes

In compliance with University policies, an "I" can be given only when a relatively minor part of a course is not completed. Therefore, if you do not participate in the outing, an "I" is not an option. If you cannot attend an outing, drop the course as soon as possible. Pay careful attention to withdrawal deadlines, as many of our outings occur late in the term.

Refund Policies

If participation is disallowed due to failure to meet the requirements for participation specified above, or because you chose not to participate in the outing for any reason other than a documented family or medical emergency, fees will NOT be refunded. Refunds are available only in the case of documented medical conditions or family emergencies. For documentation of non-medical emergencies, contact the Office of Student Life.

Course Instructor

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