

Course Description

A. General Description

This is the second course in a two course series designed to provide the information and skills necessary for safe travel in avalanche prone terrain. "Avalanche Safety" consists of a three-day (Friday through Sunday) outing providing hands-on practice in route and campsite selection, travel techniques, snowpit analysis, hazard estimation, and rescue techniques.

B. The Physical Environment

Winter weather in the Oregon Cascades can change rapidly. Below-freezing temperatures with strong winds and blowing snow can quickly change to clear, warm and sunny conditions. Safe travel under winter conditions requires proper clothing and equipment, careful navigation and route selection and constant self-monitoring of your condition.

The first day will be spent traveling to the activity site, making camp and practicing skills. On the second day we will practice basic avalanche safety skills on several snow slopes near camp. On the last day of the outing, we add to the skill set introduced on Saturday, then pack up camp and travel to the vehicles in the late morning.

Outing Course Demands and Expectations

Cold temperatures, adverse weather and challenging travel conditions can make this course very demanding.

It's imperative that you understand what is required of you in terms of preparation, fitness, physical comfort, attitude and conduct. We encourage you to maintain a questioning attitude! If you are unsure of something, ask!

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

- a) comply with the clothing and equipment requirements. You must provide some personal items of equipment (e.g. sleeping bag, clothing layers). The Outdoor Pursuits Program maintains a limited supply of certain items for student use at no charge. We have a fairly large supply of plastic double boots. If we do not have your size, you may have to rent a pair from a local vendor. You must also provide your own food. Transportation is covered in the cost of the course.
- b) be physically fit. You must be able to travel up and down Tumalo mountain on snowshoes or skis and move a lot of snow when making camp, digging hasty pits and practicing rescue response.
- c) 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.
- d) know and practice minimum impact camping techniques specific to the winter environment.

YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS OUTING if you 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.

You are highly encouraged to obtain adequate health and accident insurance prior to participation in this outing.

You are also required to read, understand, and sign the *Statement of Risk, Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability* document, *Health Disclosure* form, and *Outing Policies* document prior to participation in this outing. Allow enough time to thoroughly read each document and bring any questions you may have to the course instructor.

Prerequisites/Corequisites to Participation

Avalanche Safety Preparation is a corequisite to participation. Instructor's consent is also required.

Course Objectives

The Outdoor Pursuits Program emphasizes safe and responsible participation in outdoor activities. Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Determine and follow reasonably safe travel routes.
2. Locate and establish reasonably safe campsites.
3. Organize and safely conduct a small group through potential avalanche terrain.
4. Conduct a thorough snowpit analysis.
5. Estimate the relative stability of a given snowslope.
6. Use probing techniques effectively.
7. Organize and conduct a search for a buried avalanche victim using avalanche probes, beacons, or both.
8. Organize and conduct an efficient search for a buried avalanche victim using only skis and poles.

Evaluative Criteria

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

Competence.....	30%	Personal Organization.....	20%
Contribution to Group Effort	20%	Worksheet.....	30%

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

1. Meet the requirements of the Avalanche Safety Preparation course.
2. Attend the entire outing.
3. Attend the sessions immediately prior to, and following, the outing.
4. Pass the final exam with a score of 80% or higher.

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. Course fees may be carried over to the next offering of the same outing course ONLY in cases of officially documented medical or family emergencies.

Additional Information

1. You are required to provide a hand lens (at least 8 power). Hand lenses are available in the lower level of the U of O Bookstore.