

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON • PE & REC • Outdoor Pursuits Program  
**WILDERNESS SURVIVAL DESCRIPTION**  
<http://opp.uoregon.edu/wild/wildsurvival.html>

Wilderness Survival is the Outdoor Pursuits Program's entry or "gateway" course. It is designed to prepare you for participation in a wide range of outdoor pursuits activities, and is a prerequisite to participation in our wilderness and backcountry courses.

**GOOD ATTENDANCE AND STUDY SKILLS ARE REQUIRED TO PASS THIS COURSE!**

OBJECTIVES

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

- Regulate body temperature and dress properly for activity in adverse weather conditions.
- Demonstrate the ability to read a topographic map, specifically: Interpret topographic map description and designations, use the map's scale to measure distance, read contour lines, recognize landform features, and estimate elevation gains and losses.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a map and compass, specifically: Measure and plot bearings on a topographic map, orient the map with a compass, use resection and triangulation to determine location, and follow a bearing in the field.
- Explain how nature's cues can be used to find general direction, with emphasis on the sun as a navigational aid.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic backcountry safety and survival skills, including trip planning considerations, equipment selection (the 10 essentials), outdoor survival skills, and what to do if lost.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the causes, prevention and treatment of environmental injuries; specifically poison oak/ivy rash, insect bites and stings.
- Explain the general effects of altitude illness on human performance.
- Describe the direction of the common Pacific Northwest storm tracks and the influence of Oregon topography on precipitation patterns. Describe the appropriate steps for maximizing safety during a lightning storm.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the causes, prevention and treatment of cold injuries (hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot) and heat injuries (sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke).
- Explain the nutrition and hydration requirements necessary for a safe and enjoyable backcountry experience. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using chemicals, boiling and filtration as methods for treating backcountry water sources.
- Describe the backcountry ethics associated with leave no trace (LNT) travel and camping. Identify the major impacts resulting from human use of wilderness and backcountry areas, and describe methods for minimizing these impacts.
- List and describe the management focus of the four main federal agencies responsible for managing wilderness and backcountry recreation lands.

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

Quizzes - 45 pts: 40 pts. from class quizzes on the previous week's material – 8 pts. per quiz – top 5 scores recorded (6 quizzes ttl.)  
5 points – first day quiz

Worksheet: 15 points - specific to map and compass skills

Final Exam: 40 points – comprehensive exam covering all course topics.

GRADING

A+= 100-97, A=96-93, A-= 92-90; B+= 89-87, B=86-83, B-= 82-80; C+= 79-78, C=77-76, C-= 75-74; D+=73-72, D=71-70; F=<70

If your final score is between grading categories (e.g. 93-92, 80-79, etc.), the letter grade will be rounded up if the score is .5 and greater, and rounded down if it is less than .5.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR A PASSING GRADE - NOTE: THIS IS A GRADED COURSE. PASS/NO PASS IS NOT AN OPTION.

1. Obtain a combined score of 70 percent or better on the COMBINED course evaluative criteria.
2. Attend the entire map and compass outing (early departures not permitted).
3. Pass the final exam with a score of 70% or better.

## NOTES ON GRADING AND PARTICIPATION

1. Six in-class quizzes on the previous week's lecture content AND readings will be conducted during classes #2 through #7. Eight points are assigned per quiz. You can apply your five highest scores to your grade. If you attend a class, but miss the quiz because you left early or arrived late (if the quiz is conducted at the front or tail end of the class), you lose the points.

Quizzes CANNOT be made up except for DOCUMENTED family and/or medical issues.

2. Attendance will not be taken. If you miss more than two class quizzes, however, your chances of passing the course are *extremely slim*, unless you ace the worksheet and the final examination.
3. The worksheet must be submitted by the deadline as specified on the course schedule. Worksheets submitted late WILL NOT be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS. Worksheets are graded immediately after submission and scores posted to the website soon thereafter. Worksheets will not be reviewed in class. Worksheets will be handed back the week after they are submitted. DO NOT discard your worksheet until after you have checked to see that the right score has been entered into blackboard.

Allow a sufficient amount of time to complete the worksheet. A good score on the worksheet will likely put you in good position for the final exam and reinforce the skills required to pass the exam. A poorly completed and incomplete worksheet will GREATLY reduce the likelihood that you will pass this course.

4. Take the final exam seriously! Expect to pass the exam only if you have thoroughly reviewed the question pools, and are completely confident of your ability to demonstrate proficiency in map and compass use.
5. A final grade of "I" (incomplete) is given ONLY if a minor evaluative component of the course is missing AND can be made up within one year. For this course, an incomplete will be awarded if you do not:
  - Pass the final exam but reach the minimum score required to be eligible for a re-take exam (65%). If your score on the final is less than 65%, a re-take is not possible and a grade of "F" will be recorded, regardless of your score on other evaluative components of the course.

NOTE: The re-take exam may not be taken sooner than the next term in which the course is offered. Final exams are given during the 8th week of the term. If you intend to re-take the exam, contact Michael no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> week, to allow time to confirm eligibility and determine the proper (different) test form for the re-take exam.

The re-take exam may be taken only once and must be taken within one calendar year. The score on the re-take exam will be averaged with the score on the first exam. The average of the two exams must be 70% or higher in order to pass the exam requirement and have the "I" removed.

- Attend the map and compass outing, if and only if all other evaluative requirements are met. If you do not attend the map and compass outing, you must participate in a future term's outing (within one calendar year).

NOTE: An "I" is automatically converted to a failing grade by the Registrar's office after one calendar year.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. You are required to provide the following course resources:
  - Course packet containing the required readings for the course, lecture notes, worksheet and supporting documents, quiz pools and outing information. The course packet can be obtained from **EITHER** the UO Bookstore **OR** via the course website. Most web site documents are password-protected. The password will be provided in the first class session.
  - Compass: A practice compass **OR** a real compass for in-class practice sessions and completing the worksheet. Each of these items is available ONLY from Rec Stores in the Student Recreation Center (practice compass is \$3; real compass is \$10).
  - Ruler, calculator and pencil: for practicing map and compass skills, completing the worksheet and taking the final exam.
  - Paper for weekly quizzes.
2. The pocket first aid book 'Backcountry First Aid and Extended Care' is a highly recommended book, which is available from Rec Stores in the SRC.
3. The course Blackboard site will be used **ONLY** for posting scores on quizzes and the worksheet (immediately after being graded). If you do not have access to Blackboard, you will not be able to view your quiz scores online.
4. The lectures cover most but not all of the material that you will need to know. The readings contain information pertinent to weekly lectures.

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