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PTRM 418.90: Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course

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Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Syllabus

PTRM 418

Goals

Students will understand Wilderness values, definitions, issues, management strategies, ecology, and traditional skills as they relate to the Mission Mountains Wilderness.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define their personal and legal definitions for Wilderness
- Recall threats to designated Wilderness
- Understand winter-related wilderness management issues
- Comprehend community based stewardship in the Swan Valley
- Demonstrate LNT winter camping skills
- Practice outdoor leadership skills including group dynamics and decision-making
- Demonstrate backcountry medicine principles applicable to winter travel
- Practice avalanche safety techniques and backcountry medicine techniques before and during the backcountry trip
- Measure and monitor winter recreation use
- Identify wildlife tracks, travel patterns, and local ecology of an alpine habitat.
- Understand and apply the fundamentals of risk assessment
- Understand differences in wilderness management between east and west slopes of the Mission Mountains Wilderness

Evaluation of student course work

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand personal and legal definitions for Wilderness
- Students will understand threats to designated Wilderness
- Students will understand winter-related wilderness management issues
- Students will understand and apply outdoor leadership skills including group dynamics and decision-making
- Students will understand community based stewardship in the Swan Valley
- Students will understand winter ecology principles
- Students will understand the fundamentals of snow and avalanche science
- Students will understand how to conduct winter recreation monitoring
- Students will understand the fundamentals of risk assessment as it applies to outdoor education
- Students will understand differences in wilderness management between east and west slopes of the Mission Mountains Wilderness
- Students will understand backcountry medicine principles applicable to winter travel

- Students will understand and practice winter wilderness skills, especially as they apply to Leave No Trace principles

Assessment

Undergraduate Credit: Evaluation Criteria & Grading

- 50% Skill development, class participation, attitude, and performance in the field and in the classroom
- 50% written essay exam covering reading assignments, lectures, videos and activities (both indoors and outdoors)

Undergraduate students are responsible for reading assignments on due dates and may be called upon to lead a group discussion.

Grading

1. This course will be using a plus/minus grading system. Valid grades and their grade point values per credit are shown below:

Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA	Grade	Points	GPA
A	94 – 100 %	4.0	C+	77 – 79%	2.3	D-	60 – 62%	0.7
A-	90 – 93 %	3.7	C	73 – 76%	2.0	F	< 60 %	0.00
B +	87 – 89 %	3.3	C-	70 – 72%	1.7			
B	83 – 86 %	3.0	D+	67 – 69%	1.3			
B-	80 – 82 %	2.7	D	63 – 66%	1.0			

Meeting dates

January 2 to January 6

January 9 to January 13

Students meet from 8 AM to 5PM, and 7 PM to 10 PM daily

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS).

“Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

2012 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Schedule

Week One

Monday, 01/02

Arrive Condon @ 10 a.m., Welcome & Introductions, Course expectations

Tour facilities & get settled. Swan Ecosystem Center, Anne Dahl

Afternoon: Field activities (nature trail-winter ecology; winter wilderness skills (cooking & fires)

Evening Program:

Group Meeting, Avalanche videos, reading assignments

Tuesday, 01/03 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast

Wilderness Management Discussion: Threats to Wilderness, Kari Gunderson

Avalanche Awareness, Steve Karkanen, U.S. Forest Service, W. Central Avalanche Center

Afternoon: Avalanche Awareness...continued

Group Meeting, clean up facilities, depart from Condon for home by 4 PM

Evening Program: "Wild by Law" video, reading assignments

Wednesday, 01/04 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast

Wilderness Management Discussion: Differences & Similarities of East/West slopes, Mission Mountains Wilderness, Kari Gunderson

Afternoon: Tribal Mission Mountain Wilderness Seminar, Flathead Indian Reservation

Evening Program: "Snowshoeing" & "Arctic Dreams" video, Group Meeting, reading assignments

Thursday, 01/05 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast, Trip planning and gear shake down, Route planning, mapping activity

Backcountry Medicine, Aerie School for Backcountry Medicine

Afternoon: Backcountry Medicine...continued

Evening Program: "American Values, American Wilderness" video and reading assignments

Friday, 01/06 Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Weather Forecast, Wilderness Management Lecture and activities; Trip preparation

Afternoon: Ski and snowshoeing field trip



2012 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Syllabus

Week Two

Monday, 01/9

Arrive Condon @ 10 a.m.

Morning: Forecast

Winter LNT Principles and Winter Camping;

Afternoon: Trip Planning and Preparation

Evening Program: Trip Preparation

Tuesday, 01/10 Depart at 8 am for Cold Lakes, Mission Mountains Wilderness

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Winter ecology, group dynamics & leadership, winter wilderness skills, and monitoring

Wednesday, 01/11

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Dig snow pit, snow analysis, build snow shelter, group dynamics & leadership, avalanche awareness, winter wilderness skills, monitoring, and winter ecology

Thursday, 01/12

Group backcountry ski/snow shoe trip

Group dynamics & leadership, avalanche awareness, winter wilderness skills, and monitoring

Return to Condon

Preparation for essay assignment, complete course evaluation

Friday, 01/13, Classes begin @ 8 am

Morning: Trip Debriefing session, Essay Assignment

Afternoon: Group Closure activity, clean up facilities

Depart by 4 PM



2012 Winter Wilderness Field Studies Course Readings

Monday, January 2, 2012

- The Montana Legacy Project/Swan Watershed Map
- Threats to Wilderness
- Management Dilemmas That Will Shape Wilderness in the 21st Century
- Incident Reports for the Mission Mountains Wilderness

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

- Guide to the Mission Mountains Wilderness
- Traditional wisdom: Protecting relationships with wilderness as a cultural landscape
- Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness: A Case Study

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

- Hypothermia: The Insidious Cold
- Notes on Hypothermia, Cold Injuries, and Dehydration
- LNT Winter Use Principles
- Winter Camping & Backpacking Tips

Thursday, January 5, 2012

- Rescue-Free Wilderness Areas
- Visitor perceptions of technology, risk, and rescue in wilderness.
- Technology Leads More Park Visitors Into Trouble
- A Call For Help

