

A SEMESTER AT THE OREGON EXTENSION

(Specific textbooks identified here are illustrative. Actual required texts are decided closer to the semester.)

Summer reading: Richard Powers, *Overstory*

SEGMENT ONE: WHAT IS NATURE?

4 CREDITS

Themes:

- social constructions of "nature"--frontier, Romantic, utilitarian, ecological, anthropocene
- history & shifts in American resource extraction, environmental & preservation history
- the alternate history of African American experiences of the "great outdoors"
- scientific, ethical and philosophical questions driving "green" cultural attitudes

Books:

Jedediah Purdy, *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene*
William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature"
Richard White, *The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River*
Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Carolyn Finney, *Black Faces, White Spaces*
Anna Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*
Robin Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, & the Teachings of Plants*

Sustainability Chore Tracks (daily):

gardening and food preservation
animal husbandry

Assignments:

small group discussion
book notes on all readings
three short papers

Practices:

peak climb (Mt. McLoughlin)
overnight tour of regional green farming
recycling
apple picking and cider pressing
fly fishing workshop
map & compass orienteering and knots instruction
Friday chores

BACKPACKING TRIP

6 days in the backcountry

SEGMENT TWO: WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

3 CREDITS

Themes:

- Rene Girard's theory of mimetic desire and scapegoating
- Approaching identity formation and race in the U.S. through storytelling
- case study of current social flashpoint: e.g., populism, global refugees, climate migration

Books:

René Girard, *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning*
Britt Bennett, *The Vanishing Half: A Novel*
Yascha Mounk, *The People vs. Democracy: Why Our Freedom Is in Danger and How to Save It*
Additional texts relevant to Research Project

Sustainability Chore Tracks (daily)

gardening & food/animal husbandry

Assignments:

book notes on all readings
two short papers
independent research & 15pp paper

Practices:

Shakespeare play
canning workshop
cheese making workshop
Friday chores

OREGON COAST TRIP

Redwoods, camping in yurts, tidepooling

SEGMENT THREE: WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD?

3 CREDITS

Themes:

- what is tacit knowledge?
- the sustainability spectrum: from institutional policies and macro-economics to personal lifestyle choices
- understanding sustainability as a craft

Books

Paul Hawken, *Drawdown*

Matthew Crawford, *Shop Class as Soul Craft*

Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed: A Memoir*

Additional texts in each skill track

Skill Tracks (each student chooses one):

- sustainable business (Business)
- nature writing (Lit)
- toolcraft (Environmental Studies)
- forest management (Science Lab)
- independent research & 15pp paper

Sustainability Chore Tracks (daily)

gardening & food/animal husbandry

Practices:

track specific practices
Saturday cooking class
bread baking workshop
Friday chores

Assignments:

book notes on readings
track specific assignments

SAN FRANCISCO TRIP

4 days in the city

SEGMENT FOUR: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

3 CREDITS

Themes:

- fictional characters and the authorship of a life
- the place of suffering in human life
- the material world understood as symbol and sacrament

Books:

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

Additional texts relevant to Research Project

Assignments:

daily small group discussion
two short papers
independent research, 15pp paper & teaching
a one hour class on the research topic

Practices:

Turkey harvest
Thanksgiving dinner
cross-country skiing
Friday chores

RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

3 CREDITS

Semester-long course concurrent with all four segments aimed at improving students' skills in reasoning, argument, and clear communication, both in writing and oral presentation. Writing workshops. One-on-one interaction and feedback are provided to students on both the process and final product of their assignments.

WILDERNESS RECREATION

1 CREDIT

Practices:

- peak climb
- backpacking
- mountain biking
- hiking
- camping
- tidepooling
- cross-country skiing

Books:

Rick Curtis, *The Backpacker's Field Manual*