

Outdoor Recreation Advising Guide

The outdoor recreation emphasis in the Recreation major includes students who are interested in a wide range of career paths: camp programming/tripping and administration, guiding (climbing and mountaineering, kayaking, rafting, etc.), wilderness therapy or therapeutic adventure, environmental/experiential/outdoor education, state parks management, and adventure travel. Support area courses vary depending on individual student interests.

Generally students should be looking at natural resource/environment courses and/or people courses (human behavior) with an emphasis on the population(s) that outdoor leaders work with. The options are numerous; conversations with faculty will help shape a useful and effective support area. Specific outdoor activity skills are essential; students get these on their own. Western's Outdoor Center trips are excellent for building skills and Wilderness First Responder courses are offered fairly regularly on campus and elsewhere.

Below are possible support area classes that other students have found helpful. Although support area classes are usually 300 level and above, there are possible exceptions as listed below. ***Be aware that many of the courses listed have pre-requisites or require major or minor status.***

Support Area Policies

Keep in mind the following program policies when planning your support area:

1. The support area is 25 upper division (300 level or above). Some lower division courses may be applied, but check with your advisor first. Courses may be selected from one or more departments.
2. Your advisor must approve your support area in writing. He/she must sign your support area approval form before you can register for courses. Any changes in your support area must also be cleared with your advisor in writing. Courses that have not been pre-approved will not be accepted.
3. For transfer students and students entering the Recreation Program from another major, some courses you have taken previously may be approved for your support area. Check with your advisor.
4. An approved minor or second major may substitute for the support area requirement. It is planned and evaluated through the department from which you wish to obtain a minor or second major. For example, students in the therapeutic recreation concentration are increasingly using psychology as a minor.
5. GUR courses may *not* be used to satisfy support area requirements.
6. Support area courses must be graded (A-F).
7. "D" and "F" grades are unacceptable.
8. Your advisor must approve Independent study credits used in your support area. For independent study courses, provide a brief written proposal describing what you want to do and why you want to do it.

Outdoor Recreation Suggested Support Area Courses

Canadian/American Studies

C/AM 397X – Resource & Environmental Management System (4)

Comparative Canadian-U.S. resource and environmental management systems across the shared western North American land and water borders.

C/AM 497D – Protecting/Managing an International Ecosystem (4)

A research seminar that examines how economic, environmental, social and political agendas affect the shared international ecosystem - Georgia Basin/Puget Sound. Course focuses on the interest of various stakeholders and the efforts taken to manage the cross-border environmental issues. Special lectures will be held at UBC. Joint meetings with UBC and UW students will be held at all three universities. Also taught as PLSC 497D and ESTU 497D.

Communications

COMM 224 – Small Group Processes (4)

Exploration of the dynamics of human interaction in small group settings. Group tasks include the development of problem-solving skills, utilizing topics of current interest.

COMM 318 – Professional Communication (5)

This course integrates business writing, public speaking, collaborative problem solving, and diversity training in a professional development context. Includes theory application and skill development. Students will be working in collaboration with organizations on or off campus.

COMM 327 – Interpersonal Communication (5)

Focuses on theory and practice in work, family, and social settings. Emphasizes observation, analysis, and skills training in relationship development. Topics include language use, listening, nonverbal behavior and conflict management.

COMM 417G - Interpersonal Conflict Resolution (4)

Identification of many communication problems inherent in communication processes and insight into increasing rhetorical and behavioral options for resolving interpersonal conflict.

COMM 427 - ISSUES OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (4)

In-depth examination of theory and practice in interpersonal communication. Normally offered alternate years.

English

ENG 297 - Writing and Researching in a Technical and Professional Writing Context (5)

Emphasizes research and writing in a professional and technical communication context.

Includes visual and rhetorical analysis of a wide variety of materials that will prepare students to present findings in a variety of formats, including standard reports, visual aids and presentations.

Environmental Sciences

ESCI 310 – Environmental Systems (4)

Interaction of biotic systems with earth's physical systems; principles of ecology and natural systems; ecosystem structure, function and management. Should not be taken by students who have completed or intend to enroll in ESCI 325 or BIOL 325.

ESCI 325 – Fundamentals of Ecology (3)

Investigation of the complex interactions of organisms with each other and with their physical surroundings, explored in the context of populations, communities, ecosystems and landscapes.

ESCI 330 – Natural History of the Pacific Northwest (4)

A field-oriented introduction to the geology, climate and ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest, with a focus on the biology and the ecology of important organisms.

ESCI 407 – Forest Ecology (5)

Ecology and analysis of forest ecosystems. Investigates the interactions of ecosystem components, specifically soil, plant and animal processes, with an emphasis on Pacific Northwest forests. Includes investigative field and lab studies of local ecosystems.

ESCI 436 – Environmental Impact Assessment (5)

Objective evaluation and formal description of a real natural system or geographic region. Class preparation of a unified document summarizing physical, biological and social aspects of a study area. Review of pertinent laws and EIS documents.

ESCI 430 – Conservation of Biological Diversity (4)

Examination of causes and consequences of declines in biodiversity due to human activities. Review of conflicts arising from multiple-use management of natural resources. Survey and evaluation of conservation efforts directed at single species and at ecosystems. Optional field trips.

Environmental Studies

ESTU 304 – Environment and Resource Policy (4)

An examination of environmental and resource policy in the United States. What is policy, how is it made and how does it change? The history of environmental policy is examined, and current environmental policy surveyed. Federal, state, regional and local jurisdictions and how they interact in the policy arena are examined. Primary forces affecting environmental policy are reviewed and analyzed. Several case studies are presented.

ESTU 305 – Environmental History and Ethics (4)

A concern for nature has slowly emerged as human population has grown, understanding of nature has progressed, and the impact of human activity on natural systems has increased. This course reviews how various human activities have historically depended on and interacted with the natural world. It traces how these interactions have resulted in the emergence of what the ecologist Aldo Leopold termed the land ethic. The focus will be on how science and politics have interacted as a land ethic in American environmental history.

ESTU 320 – Explorations in Environmental Studies (4)

Introduction to solving environmental problems in a policy context, applications of analytical, written, verbal and quantitative skills to address environmental concerns in an interdisciplinary manner.

ESTU 371 – Environmental Education (4)

An introduction to environmental education and a review of current thinking and practices in this dimension of education. Focus on goals and principles, content, settings, methods and processes of environmental education through reading, discussion and project work.

ESTU 372 – The Environmental Education Curriculum (4)

Critical review of curricula that have been developed. The need for environmental education is assessed, learning objectives are examined and strategies for attaining these objectives studied. The qualities of the ideal environmental education curriculum are identified by students, based on their research into the matter.

ESTU 380 – History and Politics of Planning (3)

Survey of the origins, development and significance of the planning movement in the United States and the profession that emerged from it. The seminal innovators, practices and achievements in American planning.

ESTU 442 – Public Land Policy (3)

Overview of publicly-owned lands (Forest Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas) in the United States. Coverage of material includes administrative history, major players, policy changes over time, administration of these lands, and analysis of current events.

ESTU 443 – Land Use Law (4)

Land use planning is an attempt to reconcile the fundamental conflict between individual property rights and collective environmental goals. Examines the American legal system's role in framing and resolving this dilemma. Provides an understanding of the legal framework that creates the unique "bottom up" land use regulatory system, in which state and local government share primary authority over most land use decisions. Also examines the practical and philosophical implications of federal constitutional restrictions on local government land use authority including Supreme Court "takings" cases and cases evaluating claims of housing discrimination.

ESTU 444 – Environmental Dispute Resolution (4)

Workshop in which students practice a range of dispute resolution techniques. Students will participate in negotiations, mediation, "round table" discussions and/or other dispute resolution techniques. Course considers several fact patterns involving disputes over natural resource and environmental issues. Students will study and, in some cases, research the facts and will be assigned roles to represent during dispute resolution sessions. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to experience at first hand and to analyze the roles, limitations, advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to environmental problem-solving.

ESTU 467 – Natural Resource Policy (3)

Explores issues, politics, and conflicts in the area of natural resource policy, including endangered species, water rights and allocation, forest policy, public lands, and/or wetlands. Offered alternate years.

ESTU 468 – Environmental Law (4)

Introduction to the approaches and content of U.S. environmental law, with particular emphasis on the regulation of toxic and hazardous substances. Introduces students to issues relating to administrative processes and litigation, as well as to the study of statutes, regulations and cases.

ESTU 473 – Environmental Interpretation (4)

An overview of the field of environmental interpretation and how it relates to environmental education. Focus is on gaining an understanding of the basic elements of the interpretive process and on becoming familiar with interpretive approaches and methods. Introduces design and technical components.

ESTU 474 – Outdoor Education (4)

Classroom and field study of outdoor education, and approach to environmental education. Reviews traditional outdoor learning methods, as well as new developments and programs such as Outward Bound and adaptations thereof. Includes field experience in various outdoor settings.

ESTU 476 – Experiential Learning in Environmental Education (4)

Potential of experiential learning for environmental education. Experiential learning theory and its application to specific settings. Simulation gaming, role playing, awareness exercises. Problems of evaluation of this type of learning are given special consideration. Field work required.

ESTU 479 – Environmental Interpretation Methods (4)

Opportunity to develop skills in designing and producing interpretive media. Familiarity with and application of basic techniques, tools and equipment are the primary focus. Student projects result in the development of such projects as audio-visual presentations, displays and brochures.

ESTU 483 – Field Methods in Environmental Education (5)

Students visit environmental learning sites and programs where they observe, critique and participate as instructors. Develops skill in presentation, field leadership, environmental interpretation and instructional evaluation.

ESTU 484 – Natural History for Environmental Education (4)

Classroom and field study of the natural history of the Pacific Northwest as it relates to environmental education. A spring block course.

ESTU 486 – Community-Based Environmental Education (5)

Theory, research and practice of working in an inclusive community context to define, study, and facilitate social-environmental change. Study of participatory techniques and systematic approaches to behavior analysis and change. Requires working in an interdisciplinary group to examine problems and education-based contributions to solutions.

Fairhaven**Fair 387k – Grant Writing Workshop (4)**

Focuses on the basics of grant writing, including seeking funding sources, reading and interpreting funding guidelines, developing and refining proposals, and tricks of the trade. Development of, either individually or as a group, two small grant proposals.

Geography

EGEO 351 – Map Reading and Analysis (3)

Interpretation of map symbols and content at different scales; introduction to coordinate systems and map projections; analysis of different types of maps and charts.

Management

MGMT 313 – Teamwork (4)

An introduction to teamwork concepts and skills. Covers structural and process attributes of teams with the objective of enhancing team leader or member effectiveness.

MGMT 319 - Business Communications (4)

Business writing principles applied to various types of communications and reports. Cases used; work must be submitted in acceptable business format.

MGMT 322 - Human Resource Management (4)

Recruitment, selection, utilization and development of human resources, with emphasis on employee-management relations and relevant behavioral research.

MGMT 491 – Small Business Entrepreneurship (4)

Planning, marketing, financial, legal, control and human elements associated with the start up, acquisition and operation of a small business from the entrepreneurial point of view.

MGMT 492 – Entrepreneurial Problems (4)

Field consulting work and study under faculty supervision with small business entrepreneurs in the local business community, directed towards solving varied real-life small business problems.

Political Science

PLSC 420 – Environmental Politics (5)

Examination of contending perspectives on environmental problems. Focus on how these perspectives are rooted in political philosophy, their roles in the development of environmental movements, and the implications for public policy.

Sociology

SOC 251 – Sociology of Deviant Behavior (5)

A broad overview of concepts, issues and research findings in the sociological study of deviant behavior; how deviance is defined, reacted to and punished in American society. Emphasis on contemporary theoretical perspectives, along with current issues in deviance.

SOC 255 – Social Organization of Criminal Justice (5)

A survey of basic concepts, problems and issues in the sociological study of social organizations applied to the criminal justice system.

SOC 260 – The Family in Society (5)

Introduction to the study of family as a social institution in society. Overview of social theories on the family and methodological underpinnings of the field of family study. Emphasis on the family as agent of stratification in society, changing roles of men and women in the context of the American family, contemporary issues relating to family social policy today, and the interplay between family and society across time and cultures.

SOC 330 - Introduction to Social Psychology (5)

Interpersonal behavior, perception of others, attraction toward and liking of others, self evaluation, helping behavior, aggression, attitudes and their relationship to behavior, sexual behavior, types of interaction processes, childhood and adult socialization, deviance and conformity, personal space, environmental effects on behavior, sex role attitudes and behavior.

SOC 332 – The Sociology of Human Relationships (5)

A social psychological examination of liking, loving and relating. Emphasis on dyadic relationships such as marriage, friendship and parent-child relationships. Topics include socialization into romance and love, historical linkages between industrialization and the "feminization" of love, sociological perspectives on liking and loving, and research methods used in the study of dyadic relationships.

SOC 352 – Criminology (5)

The study of adult crime, defined as violation of legal norms. Focuses on problems of measurement and attempts to explain crime as a social phenomenon and a cultural product. Includes in-depth analysis of various forms and classes of crimes and their victims.

SOC 355 - Criminal Justice System (5)

Overview of the social organization of the criminal justice system in the United States. Examination of the organizations that create and enforce the criminal law as well as major issues currently confronting this system (plea bargaining, discrimination, limitations on due process).