

Natural History of Place: Salish Sea
Course Syllabus: BIOL 104 Night
 Fall 2007

Instructor: Emma S. Norman

Phone: (360) 392-4330

Fax: (360) 647-7084

Email: enorman@nwic.edu

Office: FAC building Room 208

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3 – 5:30 and by appointment

Meeting Time:

Monday, Wednesday (5:30 – 7:30)*

Course Description:

An exploration of local ecosystems viewed from the perspective of a natural resource with cultural significance. Themes may include: salmon, water, or cedar. Students will view the complex nature of environmental problems from disciplines such as: marine and terrestrial biology, forest ecology, water, geology, economics and policy.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will identify major ecological and biological concepts through place-based learning.
2. Students will understand the complexities of natural and cultural resources.
3. Students will link major biological themes with essential questions – such as importance of salmon, cedar, or water.

Required Text:

Kruckeberg, A.R. *The Natural History of Puget Sound Country*, University of Washington Press. 1991.

Evaluation:

Summary Papers	30%
Midterm	20%
Final Project	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation and Attendance	10%

A = 93-100	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D - = 60-62
B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D+ = 67-69	F = below 60

Lab Requirement / Field Excursions: There are scheduled field excursions to supplement the course material. The field requirement (or a pre-approved substitute if you are at another site) is mandatory – attendance will be considered as part of your final grade. Please plan accordingly.

Reflection Papers: A typed one-page (single spaced) or two-page (double spaced) is due every week. The paper should reflect the topics that you were exposed to throughout the week, through your readings and classroom experience. The paper is a way to reinforce the new educational materials as well as increase your writing skills. All papers should include complete sentences and follow standard rules of grammar. Your paper will be graded both on content for a total of 10 points per paper.

Midterm / Final: The midterm and final exam will be comprehensive. The exams will be short answer, multiple choice and essay. The exams are closed – book. Students are encouraged to meet as study groups to prepare for the exam.

Service Learning / Research Component:

Each student will participate in a service-learning project, which will help document the changes in the Natural Environment for your community. You will need to identify a topic relevant to the class (for example, the Boldt Decision, fishing in the Puget Sound, logging, or sustainable forestry). We will work with the Center for Service Learning on Lummi Campus to help develop short (5-minute) documentaries capturing the spirit of the changes. The center has digital equipment to help with the recording (and editing) of these documentaries. If you have your own equipment, you are welcome to use it. If you are off site and do not have access to digital equipment, we can work with you individually to develop a similar project (either with different technology) or through the writing of a paper.

You can interview elders or community leaders that you already know, or we can work with you to help identify people to interview. It is important to note that you will need to ask permission to share the information from your interviewee. I will provide a waiver for you.

The last week is reserved to view these documentaries; you will present to the class and discuss what you learned in the process.

What is Service-Learning?

Service learning is curriculum-based volunteer work that serves the greater community as well as reinforces the course material.

– or –

The combination of volunteer work and classroom instruction, with a focus on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility.

In this case, we are documenting the changes in natural history in our community, which will serve as a valuable resource for our future generations.

Participation and Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and will be calculated in the final grade.

Fall 2007 (Night) Weekly Schedule

Schedule subject to change

Date	What	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to Land	
M Sept 17	Intro to course - Place Based Learning	
W Sept 19	Intro to course – Intro to Service Project	
Week 2	Landforms of Puget Sound Basin	Read: Chapter 1
M Sept 24	Topic - Landforms of PSB	
W Sept 26	Topic - Landforms of PSB	Journal 1 Due
Th. Sept 27	<i>Field Trip 1 Larrabee State Park</i>	9:30 – 12:30
Week 3	<i>Climate and Weather</i>	Read Chapter 2
M Oct 1	Topic - Climate & Weather	Service Learning Proposal Due
W Oct 3	Topic - Climate & Weather	Journal 2 Due
F Oct 5	Shellfish Hatchery	10 - noon
Week 4	Inland Sea, Marine Life in Puget Sound	Read Chapter 3, 4
M Oct 8	Topic – Inland Sea	
W Oct 10	Topic - Marine Life	Journal 3 Due
Week 5	Life on Land: Lowland Forests	Read Chapter 5
M Oct 15	Topic - Lowland Forests	
W Oct 17	Topic - Lowland Forests / Review	Journal 4 Due
Th Oct 18	<i>FT 3 Schell Creek Water Quality</i>	9:30 – 12:30
F Oct 19	<i>FT 4 Restoration Project Schell Creek</i>	11:00 – 1:00
Week 6	Upland Ecology	Read Chapter 6
M Oct 22	MIDTERM	
W Oct 24	Topic – Upland Ecology	Journal 5 Due
Week 7	Lakes, Prairies, and Other Nonforested Lowland Habitats	Read Chapter 7
M Oct 29	Topic – Lakes, Prairies	
W Oct 31	Topic – Lakes, Prairies	Journal 6 Due
Fr Nov 2	<i>FT 5 Marietta and Kwina Slough</i>	11:00 – 1:00
Week 8	Montane Nature History of PSB	Read Chapter 8
M Nov 5	Topic – Montane Natural History	
W Nov 7	Topic – Montane Natural History	Journal 7 Due
Week 9	Water and Quality of Life	Read Chapter 9
M Nov 12	Topic – Water Quality	
W Nov 14	Topic – Water Quality /Global Warming	Journal 8 Due
Week 10	The Impact of European Contact	Read Chapter, 10 11
M Nov 19	Discussion – European Contact	Journal 9 Due
W Nov 20	<i>Holiday Break</i>	
Week 11	Class Presentations	
M Nov 26	Class Presentations (Internal)	Final Paper Due
W Nov 28	Class Presentations/ Celebration	Journal 10 Due
Week 12	COURSE WRAP UP	
M Dec 3	FINAL EXAM	

Grading / Timeline Checklist

Journals

30% (10 pts each journal)

- 1. Sept 27 _____
- 2. Oct 4 _____
- 4. Oct 11 _____
- 3. Oct 18 _____
- 5. Oct 25 _____
- 6. Nov 1 _____
- 7. Nov 8 _____
- 8. Nov 15 _____
- 9. Nov 20 _____
- 10. Nov 29 _____

Exams

20% each

- Oct 23: Midterm _____
- Dec 5: Final _____

Final Project

20% total

- Oct 1 : Topic Proposal _____
- Nov 6. Deadline for Conducting Interview
- Nov 27 or 29: Presentation _____

FIELD WORK / EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

FT	Location	Theme	Date / Time
1	<i>Larrabee Park & Chuckanut Stream</i>	Natural Landforms and Healthy Ecosystems	Th. Sept 27 9:30 – 12:30
2	Sandy Point Fish Hatchery	Marine Habitat	Fr. Oct 5 10 - noon
3	Schell Creek, Imhof Road	Healthy Riparian Habitat & Water Quality Testing (with NSEA)	Th. Oct 18 9:30 – 12:30
4	Schell Creek, Imhof Road	Habitat Restoration Project (with NSEA)	Fr. Oct 19 11:00 – 1:00
5	Marietta and Kwina Slough	Lowland Habitats, Restoration Projects	Fr. Nov 2 10:00 – 12:00