Students of ES458/558 –
River Environments of Oregon

Dear Gang:

Thank you for enrolling in “ES458/558 River Environments of Oregon” at Western Oregon University. We should have a fun-filled, 1-week adventure examining the regional geology, geomorphology, and fluvial processes associated with central Oregon and the lower Columbia River. The focus will be on fun, camping, adventure, and field science. Below is a bulleted list of vital information and issues related to this 1-week field course.

Field Course Dates:

General Itinerary
8/5 – drive Monmouth to Newberry Volcano, camp at LaPine State Park; Cascade and Newberry Field Stops
8/6 – Newberry Field Stops / activities, drive from Newberry to The Dalles / Columbia Gorge; camp at Deschutes River State Park
8/7 – Columbia Gorge Field Stops / activities, drive from the Dalles to Trout Creek BLM Campground
8/8 – Rafting on Middle Deschutes; field stops / activities, camp on Deschutes
8/9 – Rafting on Middle Deschutes; field stops / activities, camp on Deschutes
8/10 – Pull off river around noon at Maupin; field stops / activities, drive through lower Columbia Gorge-Willamette Valley, Return to Monmouth via Portland

NOTE: the above itinerary is tentative and may be changed by the instructor at any time during the trip.

Pre-Class Organizational Meeting:
We will convene a pre-trip organizational meeting on Thursday August 3, 2006 at 6:00 PM, Rm 218 Natural Sciences Bldg. The purpose of this meeting is to hand out field guides/pre-trip readings, arrange cooking teams, menus, chore groups, and general group bonding.

Post-Trip Meeting:
We will convene a post-trip meeting / debriefing session on Thursday August 17, 2006 at 6:00 PM Rm 218 Natural Sciences Bldg. The purpose of this meeting is to review the trip, share notes / photos, and prepare students for completion of the final project.

Post-Trip Project:
The post-class project will involve a field trip report (road log, field notes, photos, location maps, etc.) as well as results-interpretations from field exercises and labs. The project is due by September 1, 2006; late projects will be accepted with a 10% grade penalty. You will receive an “incomplete” grade until the final project is
submitted. Any students who do not submit a completed final project by October 1, 2006 will receive a final grade of “F” for the class.

Class Web Site:
A class web site is located at: URL http://www.wou.edu/taylor and follow the links to “ES458/558 River Environments”. The web site includes a syllabus, background readings, maps, field trip guides, photos from last year, etc. We will also use the site to post new photos and results once we return. Check the bulletin board section in the coming weeks, as I will be posting relevant information there.

Course Content/Exercises
Warning: You will be expected to actually learn something and perform student-like behaviors on this trip. This class will involve reading, writing, and arithmetic… and occasionally asking a good question. The general format of the class will involve completion of lab exercises (in camp) during the first 1-2 hours of the morning, followed by field adventure, data collection, and observation. Make sure you bring a calculator, pencils, ruler, protractor, and notebook. Ziplock bags are useful for keeping notebooks / field guides dry while floating through white water. The instructor reserves the right to create new exercises and learning adventures during the course of the field trip (i.e. no complaining when I come up with something else for you to do in the name of geoscience education). This field trip involves camping, outdoor adventure, field science, and FUN!

What to Bring on Field Trip:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sleeping Bag / Pillow</th>
<th>Tevas/Sandals/Water Shoes</th>
<th>Warm Night Clothes</th>
<th>Field Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tent (tent teams encouraged)</td>
<td>Pocket Knife / Flashlight</td>
<td>Cool Day Clothes</td>
<td>Positive Attitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toiletries</td>
<td>Lighter / Matches</td>
<td>Sunblock / sunglasses</td>
<td>Sense of Humor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Bottle</td>
<td>Mess Kit</td>
<td>Hat / sun shield</td>
<td>Willingness to Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Pack / Day Pack</td>
<td>Clip Board / Field Notebook</td>
<td>Towel / Swim suit</td>
<td>Fishing Gear(?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturdy Hiking Boots</td>
<td>Pencils/Pens, Calculator, ruler</td>
<td>Cash / Credit Card</td>
<td>Dry-pack bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleeping Pad</td>
<td>Rain Jacket / Pants</td>
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**Note: tents, sleeping bags, pillows, and sleeping pads must be of small enough size so that they can be stowed in the van and on the raft. Sleeping bags should be SINGLE PERSON and constructed of COMPRESSIBLE synthetic fibers. You must be able to stuff and compress the sleeping bag into small spaces. Large, cotton sleeping bags are not acceptable. They are difficult to compress, take up much space, and are difficult to dry out if they get wet. All of your clothes/personal items must fit into one water-proof river sack (about the size of a large pillow case) while on the river.

Food Situation:
Students will be responsible for purchasing and preparing food for all days, except when we are on the river with the river guide (the river guide will provide a cook and 3 meals per day + snacks while we are on the river). We will organize food teams of 2-3 individuals. Your team will be responsible for purchasing food, preparing meals, and cleaning camp cookware. We will organize food teams and menus at the pre-trip meeting on Aug. 3. We generally have coolers, camp cookware, and camp stoves available through the Natural Sciences Club. We will augment with personal camping equipment. Again, this will be worked out at our pre-trip meeting. A small portable (table top) gas grill works well and eliminates messy pots and pans. We will need two for the group, if anyone has small gas grills please let us know at the pre-trip meeting. August is fire season in central Oregon, as a general rule, fires / charcoal will not be permitted (we’ll have to assess this on a camp-by-camp basis).

Anticipated Food Schedule:

8/5/06 – Individuals responsible for Lunch, Dinner, Snacks (*groceries for this day could be purchased ahead of time; but we will be making a grocery stop in La Pine before heading to camp/dinner)
8/6/05 – Individuals responsible for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks (grocery stop at The Dalles)
8/7/05 – Individuals responsible for Breakfast, Lunch-Dinner (grocery stop in Madras)
8/8/05 – Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner-Snacks provided by River Guide
8/9/05 - Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner-Snacks provided by River Guide
8/10/03 – Breakfast-Lunch provided by River Guide, Individuals responsible for Dinner on way back to Monmouth. We will likely get burgers, etc. in Maupin for lunch after pulling off river.

Additional Personal Vehicle
I have reserved one 12-person van, we will need at least one additional personal vehicle with room for equipment storage to tag along on the trip (preferably a truck with locking cap, van or other SUV). We will collectively chip in for gas to cover the extra vehicle… this will be worked out at our pre-trip organizational meeting on 8/3/06.

Showers/Bathing
Showers are available only the first night of camping at LaPine State Park. No showers are available at any of our other camp spots, but there will be running water/camp spigots. Be prepared for refreshing river baths and faucet showers. Biodegradable, environmentally-friendly soap and shampoo are advised. There are limited opportunities to find showers in town, catch as catch can, at various stops along the trip.

Pre-Trip Reading Assignment
Visit the class web site at http://www.wou.edu/las/physci/taylor/gs407rivers/g407su04.htm for comprehensive information regarding the course. Please read the following information before our pre-trip meeting on August 3, 2006.

1. “Rafting Guidelines” (link located at top of web page)
2. Orr and Orr, 1999 - Overview of High Lava Plains (link in “Required Reading” section of web page)
3. Orr and Orr, 1999 - Overview of Deschutes-Columbia Plateau (link in “Required Reading” section)
4. O’Connor et al., 2003a - Overview of Deschutes Geology, Hydrology, Geomorphology (link in “Required Reading” section of web page)

Pre-trip assignment – read items 2, 3, and 4 above, BEFORE WE DEPART. For each reading, create a notated outline summarizing the information in each paper. An example of a notated, summary outline is available at the following web address: http://www.wou.edu/las/physci/taylor/g202/eg_outline.pdf

Your pre-trip reading outlines will be included as part of your field trip report / final project. Extra biscuits will be awarded to those students with outlines prepared by the departure date. I will hand out the syllabus and discuss this and other class requirements at the pre-trip meeting.

This is all I can think of at the moment. Please email or call if you have any questions (see contact information below). I look forward to seeing you at the organizational meeting on August 3. If you can’t make either the pre- or post-trip meetings, please contact me for further information / logistical discussion. The cell phone number below is the best way to reach me during summer hours.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Taylor

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