Students of GS407/507 –
River Environments of Oregon

Dear Gang:

Thank you for enrolling in “GS407/507 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**
- 8/2 – drive Monmouth to Newberry Volcano, camp at Newberry Group Camp (reserved); Newberry Field Stops
- 8/3 – Newberry Field Stops / activities, drive Newberry – Willowdale / Trout Creek; camp at Trout Creek BLM Campground (first come, first serve)
- 8/4 – Rafting on Middle Deschutes; field stops / activities, camp on Deschutes
- 8/5 – Rafting on Middle Deschutes; field stops / activities, camp on Deschutes
- 8/6 – Pull off river around noon at Maupin; field stops / activities, drive to Deschutes River State Park, camp at DRSP (reserved)
- 8/7 – Field stops / activities in Columbia Gorge; camp at DRSP (reserved)
- 8/8 – Break Camp, Field stops / activities in lower Columbia Gorge-Willamette Valley, Return to Monmouth via Portland

**Pre-Class Organizational Meeting:**
We will convene a pre-trip organizational meeting on Thursday July 29, 2004 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 12, 2004 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, 2004. You will receive and “incomplete” grade until the final project is submitted.
Class Web Site:
A class web site is located at: URL http://www.wou.edu/taylor and follow the links to “GS407/507 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).

What to Bring on Field Trip:
Sleeping Bag / Pillow  Tevas/Sandals/Water Shoes  Warm Night Clothes  Field Guide
Tent (tent teams encouraged)  Pocket Knife / Flashlight  Cool Day Clothes  Positive Attitude
Toiletries  Lighter / Matches  Sunblock / sunglasses  Sense of Humor
Water Bottle  Mess Kit  Hat / sun shield  Willingness to Learn
Field Pack / Day Pack  Clip Board / Field Notebook  Towel / Swim suit  Fishing Gear(?)
Sturdy Hiking Boots  Pencils/Pens,Calculator,ruler  Cash / Credit Card  Dry-pack bag
Sleeping Pad  Rain Jacket / Pants

**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 3-4 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 July 29. We generally have coolers, camp cookware, and camp stoves available through the Natural Sciences Club. We may have to augment with some personal 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).

8/2/03 – Individuals responsible for Lunch, Dinner, Snacks (*groceries for this day should be purchased ahead of time; but we will also be making stops in Bend)
8/3/03 – Individuals responsible for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks (possible grocery stop in Bend)
8/4/03 – Individuals responsible for Breakfast, Lunch-Dinner-Snacks provided by River Guide
8/5/03 – Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner-Snacks provided by River Guide
8/6/03 – Breakfast-Lunch provided by River Guide, Individuals responsible for Dinner (Restaurant Night? Grocery stop in Biggs or The Dalles). We will likely get burgers, etc. in Maupin for lunch after pulling off river. Last year Friday night was pizza night in the Dalles.

8/7/03 – Individuals responsible for Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner-Snacks (stops in the Dalles)

8/8/03 - Individuals responsible for Breakfast-Lunch-Snacks

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). We will collectively chip in for gas to cover the extra vehicle… this will be worked out at our organizational meeting on 7/29.

Showers/Bathing
No showers are available at any of our 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.

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 July 29.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Taylor

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