

ENV 207: CAREERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Dr. Kerry Byrne

Office: DOW 205

Contact: Kerry.Byrne@oit.edu

Office Hours: T 3–5 pm, R 1-2 pm, F 3-4pm, or by appointment (email first)

Class Meeting Time: W 3:00 – 4:50 pm in OW 111, & other locations TBA (check your OIT email for announcements and blackboard for course materials and updates)

Catalog Description: Survey of environmental sciences and natural resources management occupations, including educational requirements for various levels of employment. Students will learn how to search for and apply for positions.

Course Objectives: In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of environmental science professions via discussions and invited speakers from those fields. The specific objectives of this course are to help students:

- Understand the potential career paths as an ENV major, and make some steps towards deciding on an appropriate career path.
- Interact with environmental science professionals.
- Learn how to successfully search and apply for positions in the environmental sciences.
- Research a variety of graduate schools.

Assessment:

Course grades at Oregon Tech follow a “whole grade” structure: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C= 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F < 60%. Student grades will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

Component	% of grade
Participation	35
A. Question prep for each speaker (due each week by 2 pm Wed)	(10)
B. Reflection on each speaker (due each week by 5 pm Fri)	(25)
Consultation with Dr. Byrne (week 3, 6, 9 or 10)	5
Graduate School presentation (weeks 3-10)	25
Draft resume & cover letter (1st draft resume due week 2, drafts for peer review due week 6)	10
Peer review of resume & cover letter (in class week 6)	5
Final resume & cover letter (due on blackboard 6 pm 3/16)	20
Total	100

Notes about Student Assessment

1. **Participation:** you will not be able to learn from environmental science professionals if you don't show up – so attendance and participation is worth over one third of your overall course grade. Participation is broken down into two parts:
 - A. **Question prep for each speaker:** every week, I will post a PDF of our speaker's resume or CV (Curriculum Vitae) on blackboard before s/he visits. Using their resume as a guide, submit three prepared questions for each speaker on blackboard by 2 pm the Wed. that they visit our class period. You will then verbally ask at least one of these questions during the class period to spur conversation. Your questions are certainly flexible, but I've included some sample questions below:
 - What are some of the harder or less satisfying things about your profession?
 - What is your favorite part of your profession?
 - How has your profession changed in the years since you've been working?
 - What was the most important thing you did as an undergrad to get where you are today?
 - I see that you volunteered for a summer as a backcountry ranger. Do you think that helped you get your job with the National Park Service?
 - B. **Reflection on each speaker:** after each speaker visits our class, you will write and submit on blackboard a 2 paragraph reflection on the visit. In the first paragraph, write a brief summary of the speaker's educational and professional preparation, their profession and workplace, recent and future changes in their career field, and the job outlook for that field. In the second paragraph, write a self-reflection on whether or not you might pursue this profession, what you liked/disliked about the job duties, etc. Please keep these summaries short and succinct – I don't want a novel! And make sure you read over your reflection before you submit it – I will deduct points for misspellings and poor grammar and readability.
2. **Consultation with Dr. Byrne:** during week 3, 6, 9, or 10, schedule a 30 minute consultation with me to discuss your interests, career goals, etc. I will send out a doodle poll during week 1 with some available times for consultation. Appointments will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
3. **Graduate school presentation:** working by yourself or in a team, create and present a powerpoint presentation on a graduate degree program that you have some interest in. The presentations should be 15-20 minutes, with time for questions and discussion. Presentations will be week 3 – week 10.

What to include in your presentation:

 - Summarize admission requirements and preferences of the school
 - List of all materials that are part of the application
 - List deadline(s). Note that some graduate programs may have more than just one deadline for different parts of the application
 - Summarize the experiential & educational preparation for the program, desirable personal skills and abilities, and recent and future changes in the professional area.
 - Describe why you see yourself in that chosen profession.
 - Cite the URL of the school website, along with any other sources you used.

- 4. Resume & Cover Letter:** Peruse job postings and find one that you are exceptionally interested in. Take a screen shot or save the job posting, then tailor your resume and cover letter to apply for the position. You will submit a draft resume and cover letter that will be peer-reviewed by a student in the class and make changes before you submit a draft to me for review. Once you've made changes, you'll submit the final resume & cover letter.

Websites to check for job postings:

Physiological Ecology Section staff/seasonal/undergrad positions: <http://esa-ecophys.org/>

Texas A & M University Wildlife & Fisheries job board: <http://wfscjobs.tamu.edu/job-board/>

Conservation job board: <http://www.conservationjobboard.com/>

USA Jobs: <https://www.usajobs.gov/>

American Fisheries Society job listings: <http://fisheries.org/jobs>

ECOLOG archives: <https://listserv.umd.edu/archives/ecolog-l.html>

The Nature Conservancy careers: <http://www.nature.org/about-us/careers/>

Society for Conservation Biology: <http://careers.conbio.org/>

.... and many more

General Details

Disability services: If you may need a course adaptation or academic accommodation because of a disability, or if you might need special arrangements in case the room or building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible. I rely on Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you may have a need and have not previously contacted that Disability Services (located in LRC 228), I encourage you to do so as soon as possible at 541-851-5179.

The Honor Code: All work is to be your own individual work, written in your own words. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

For more information on plagiarism and how to properly cite scientific works and writings contact your instructor or visit www.plagiarism.org