

LA 408/508 | Fall 2017

Cascade Transect: Field Guide to the Oregon Timber Trail



Time T | 4:00 pm – 05:50 pm
Th | 6:00 pm – 7:50 pm
Optional (1) Day Field Trip (9/30 OR 10/1)

Location T | LA 405A | *lecture*
Th | M283 | *lab*

Credits 4

Instructor Michael Geffel

Office Hours T + Th 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Seminar Description

Through a partnership with Travel Oregon, the course will study the geography of the newly launched Oregon Timber Trail (OTT) to create a field guide to the cultural landscape of the Cascades. As a means of analysis, we will study the “Willamette Tier” of the trail as a *transect* which orients cyclists to the unique landscape history of these forests and the cultural products of human settlement. We will then develop a “taxonomy of the timber industry” to understand how regimes of land ownership, fire management, and industrial infrastructure have constructed the forest, and geographically represent their spatial territories along the trail.

A parallel field guide will be developed for the town of Oakridge, the most significant product of the timber industry that is now striving to reinvent itself as a mountain-bike destination. The town can be understood as a frontier “portal” – either to the forest, or to “civilization” depending on one’s point of reference – and we will consider how the field guide organizes one’s geographic experience depending on the context, and how to help the traveler decode the cultural artifacts of the town and its environs.

Through this course, students will:

- Develop a basic understanding of GIS platforms, cartographic production and graphic design
- Review and critique conventions of cartographic representation
- Survey the field guide typology as an instrument of landscape orientation
- Learn and apply skills in hand and digital media to develop graphic representations of the cultural landscape
- Work as a team to create a document for a particular audience

Context

The OTT is a new 670-mile backcountry mountain bike route spanning the state of Oregon from California to the Columbia River Gorge. Inspired by the Pacific Crest Trail and other trails in the National Scenic Trail System, the OTT connects existing single-track trails to create a long distance bike-packing route unlike anything else in the state. 2017 is the “Pioneer Year” of the route and currently no single map exists for the trail. This seminar presents a unique opportunity for students to develop a field guide to the Willamette Tier for the use of future cyclists navigating the trail.

Prerequisites

No pre-requisites are required for the class although it is highly recommended that students have a command of graphic design software such as the Adobe Suite. Students *will* be required to have their own laptops, which will need to be powerful enough to run the software. Those with previous GIS experience are encouraged to enroll in the course and will be provided with additional opportunities to advance their knowledge, but experience with this software is not a requirement. The course is intended primarily for students in Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Geography, and Planning and Public Policy. Non-majors should contact the Landscape Architecture Office to request enrollment at 541-346-3634 or landarch@uoregon.edu.

Field Trip

Depending on student interest, an optional one-day field trip will be offered on Saturday or Sunday during the first weekend of the term. The field trip will give students a chance to bike a portion of the trail and explore the town of Oakridge. Mountain bikes and training will be provided by an outfitter in Oakridge at a reduced rate. Special accommodations can be made to explore the trail in another capacity for differently abled students.

Expectations

The course will meet twice per week. On Tuesdays, the class will focus on lectures, discussion of required readings and presentation of class materials. On Thursdays, class will serve as a lab with an emphasis on

software and media instruction during the beginning of the term, and time for students to work on class projects towards the end. The majority of class exercises will be completed in small teams divided based on their interest in OTT topics, with each team contributing to the completion of the Willamette Tier Field Guide. Presentations of the completed Field Guide will be held during the final exam period; all students must attend.

Assessment

The course is offered as either graded or pass/no pass. In either case, all assignments must be completed satisfactorily and submitted in a timely fashion to achieve a passing grade. Grades will be based on both individual performance and team projects. Discussion of required readings will count as a single assignment, and will be worth 20% of the student's grade. Students will be expected to attend all classes and be on time. On-time class attendance counts for 10% of a student's grade. More than two unexcused absences will result in further deduction of points.

Throughout much of the term, students will work in teams of 4-5 people that will serve as the basis for in-class exercises and the final project. Students will develop team covenants and conduct a mid-project peer evaluation to help develop good team dynamics. At the end of the term, students will be asked to provide a final peer evaluation of the relative contributions of their team members. This evaluation will be worth 10% of the student's grade

The university requires that graduate students fulfill requirements beyond those of undergraduates in 400/500 level courses. To this end, graduate students will be asked to assist with additional project management, and to exercise leadership in team projects.

Information for Students with Disabilities

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are learning or health considerations that may affect your ability to participate fully in this course, please meet with Prof. Geffel as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. If this is a documented disability, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter of verification. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Policy Statement on Academic Honesty and Student Conduct

All work submitted must be your own (or your team's) and originally produced for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Students are encouraged to work together and assist one another, but unless an assignment is specifically designated as a team project, each student is expected to complete their own work individually. Plagiarism means using the ideas or writings of another as one's own. It includes, but is not limited to:

- a) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement; and
- b) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person.

Academic Misconduct

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism.

Schedule

Weeks	T	Th
1 Cascade Transect (3 Wks)	9/26 Intro to the course and the OTT	9/28 Intro to GIS, <i>In-class Exercise</i> Optional Field Trip 9/30 OR 10/1
2 Cascade Transect (3 Wks)	10/3 The Transect	10/5 GIS Analysis, <i>In-class Exercise</i>
3 Cascade Transect (3 Wks)	10/10 <i>Reading Discussion</i>	10/12 Cartographic Production, <i>In-class Exercise</i>
4 Taxonomy of the Timber Industry (3 wks)	10/17 Pinup Phase 1 Work , Intro to Phase 2	10/19 Infographics, <i>In-class Exercise</i>
5 Taxonomy of the Timber Industry (3 wks)	10/24 The Taxonomy, <i>Divide into groups</i>	10/26 Storyboard, <i>In-class Exercise</i>
6 Taxonomy of the Timber Industry (3 wks)	10/31 <i>Reading Discussion</i>	11/2 Working Session
7 Field Guide to the OTT (4 wks)	11/7 Pinup Phase 2 Work , Intro to Phase 3	11/9 Working Session
8 Field Guide to the OTT (4 wks)	11/14 The Field Guide	11/16 Working Session
9 Field Guide to the OTT (4 wks)	11/21 <i>Reading Discussion</i>	11/23 Thanksgiving Break
10 Field Guide to the OTT (4 wks)	11/28 Pinup Phase 3 Work	11/30 Working Session
11 Field Guide to the OTT	Final Presentation (TBD)	