BI 141: Habitats: Life of the Forest

Examines structure and function of Oregon forest ecosystems. Covers distribution and interactions of plants, animals, microorganisms, climate and basic geology. Laboratory emphasizes identification and environmental testing.

Fieldwork Statement

Fieldwork is a professional competence in many areas of Biology. Standard field practices include measurements of abiotic and biotic components. Fieldwork includes use of all the senses to make observations in natural and built environments. Field training may include developing skills in site characterization, measurement and data collection, application of key terms and concepts, species identification, and observation. Certain protocols may require use of equipment, chemicals, and expensive gear. Field training is experiential often leading to unique sets of observations/data in particular locations. Fieldwork may include inherent risks (uneven terrain, off-trail work with map & compass, variable weather, insects, environmental irritants, travel, stress, etc.). Fieldwork can be physically challenging and may require overland travel on foot or unusual means to field points, carrying field equipment (as well as food, water, and safety equipment), taking measurements under duress (learning new protocols, requiring remaining in an unusual posture or position for a length of time, timing pressures for certain procedures, holding organisms, variable weather, etc.), survival skills, orienteering, and so on.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

A student will collaboratively and independently:

- Use basic principles of ecosystems structure and function to characterize a specific forest.
- Identify and express how humans interact with the forest environment by applying basic principles of forest management.
- Work with a team to initialize and complete a study of the biology, chemistry and physical characteristics of a forest.

Credits: 4
Prerequisites: WR 115 RD 115 MTH 20 Equivalent placement test scores also accepted.
Program: Biology