

# G 200G: Geology Field Studies Columbia River Gorge

Introduces basic concepts in geology through lecture and a field trip in the vicinity of the Columbia River Gorge. Prior geology experience recommended. Prerequisites

## Addendum to Course Description

Geology Field Studies: Columbia River Gorge (G 200G) is a one credit course designed to engage students with the earth sciences by examining the geology of the Columbia River Gorge area. The course consists of a one day field trip buttressed by supporting lectures that introduce aspects of geology as needed to explain the geology of the Columbia River Gorge area. This course can be used to partly fulfill graduation requirements for the Associate Degree.

Students are expected to be able to read and comprehend college-level science texts and perform basic mathematical operations in order to successfully complete this course.

## Field Based Learning Statement

Earth and space sciences are based on observations, measurements and samples collected in the field. Field-based learning is recommended by numerous professional Geology organizations, including the American Geological Institute and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. Field-based learning improves both metacognition and spatial/ visualization abilities while helping to transfer basic concepts to long-term memory by engaging multiple senses at the same time. Spatial thinking is critical to success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines. Field work may include:

1. Developing skills in site characterization.
2. Application of key terms and concepts.
3. Measurement and data collection.
4. Interpretation of data and observations, and fitting them to a larger context.

Field work may be physically challenging and may require overland travel on foot or other means to field sites, carrying equipment and supplies, and making measurements in unusual or awkward positions for a length of time. Field work may include inherent risks (uneven terrain, variable weather, insects, environmental irritants, travel stress, etc.). Field work can be adapted to individual abilities.

## Evolution Statement

Regarding the teaching of basic scientific principles (such as geologic time and the theory of evolution), Oregon Coast Community College affirms the following statements about what constitutes science.

- Science is a non-dogmatic and self-correcting investigatory process. A scientific theory is neither a guess, dogma, nor myth. Instead, theories are explanations for natural phenomena based on a preponderance of evidence. Theories developed through scientific investigation are not decided in advance but can be and often are revised through observation and experimentation.
- The theory of evolution meets the criteria of a scientific theory. In contrast, "creation science," "intelligent design," or similar designations are neither self-examining nor investigatory. "Creation science" is not considered a legitimate science, but a form of religious advocacy and pseudoscience. This position is established by legal precedence (*Webster v. New Lenox School District #122*, 917 F.2d 1004).
- Geology/General Science instructors at Oregon Coast Community College will teach the basic geologic principles (such as geologic time and the theory of evolution) not as absolute truth, but as the most widely accepted explanation for our observations of the world around us. Instructors will not teach that "creation science" is anything other than pseudoscience.
- Because "creation science", "scientific creationism", and "intelligent design", and similar designations are essentially religious doctrines that are at odds with open scientific inquiry, Oregon Coast Community College stands with such organizations such as the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, and the American Geological Institute in excluding these doctrines from our science curriculum.

# Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- narrate a geologic history of the Columbia River Gorge region by combining site specific content knowledge with limited field observations and experiences within the Columbia River Gorge region.
- connect current hazard assessments and environmental concerns affecting the Columbia River Gorge region to the geography and geologic history of the Columbia River Gorge region.
- communicate geologic concepts effectively using maps and diagrams in written and/or oral formats

**Credits:** 1

**Prerequisites:**

[WR 115](#)

[RD 115](#)

[MTH 20](#)

Equivalent placement test scores also accepted.

**Program:** [Geology](#)