

Semester in the West  
Fall 2008  
Program Director, Phil Brick

ES 360 Environmental Writing and the American West  
Hoornbeek and Walka

This course explores how writers and others conceptualize and portray various aspects of the American West. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of a variety of genres, including nature writing, political journalism, creative writing, poetry, and writing for interdisciplinary journals in environmental studies. We will write daily and we will often read aloud to one another from our work. Goals include developing a voice adaptable to multiple audiences and objectives, understanding modes of argument and effectiveness of style, learning to meet deadlines, sending dispatches, reading aloud, and moving writing from the classroom to public venues. The course will be sequentially team-taught in the eastern Sierra Nevada region of California and southeastern Utah. Required if, and open only to, students accepted to Semester in the West. This course can be used by environmental studies majors to satisfy environmental studies-humanities credits within the major. *Prerequisites*: acceptance into the Semester in the West Program.

**Distribution area: humanities.**

ES 408 SW Western Epiphanies: Integrated Project  
Brick

In this course students will be responsible for developing a final project based Semester in the West experiences with the objective of integrating knowledge from courses in politics, ecology, and writing. Each student will produce a final project that sheds light on a substantive issue addressed on Semester in the West. Students must also present their project in a public forum and publish it as an audiovisual podcast on the Semester in the West Web site. Required of, and open only to students accepted to Semester in the West. *Prerequisites*: Acceptance into the Semester in the West Program.

BIO 171 SW ST: Ecology of the American West  
O'Brien and Arbetan

This course will explore the adaptations and relationships of organisms to their abiotic and biotic environments, with a focus on the varied ecosystems of the Hells Canyon region of northeastern Oregon and the high desert ecosystems of northern New Mexico. Particularly, we hope you will come to understand the forces impacting, and the impact of, individual organisms, as they exist over time and space, and as parts of higher levels of ecological constructs including the population, community, and ecosystem. A significant proportion of this class will be spent in the field quantifying vegetative associations and a selection of the fauna inhabiting those associations. The course is team-taught sequentially over two intensive, two-week periods. Laboratory sessions will consist primarily of fauna and flora identification, ecological monitoring techniques including vegetative plot monitoring, dry

pitfall monitoring, and avian transect monitoring. Required of, and open only to students accepted to Semester in the West. Environmental studies majors may substitute this course for Biology 130 *Conservation Biology* or Biology 115 *Regional Natural History*, as an interdisciplinary foundation course in the sciences with a lab, for the major. *Prerequisites:* Acceptance into the Semester in the West Program.

**Distribution area: science with lab.**

POL 309 Environment and Politics in the "New West"

Brick

This seminar explores the changing political landscape of the American West, with emphasis on changing environmental values and on conflicts over natural resource policy. Amid dramatic social, economic, and demographic changes, the West is at war with itself over conflicting claims to public resources such as water, pasture, minerals, timber, fresh air, and recreation. What are the causes of these conflicts, and what kinds of approaches will be necessary to address them? Required of and open only to students accepted to Semester in the West.