

Zero Week Summer Field Course

ENVS 410/510 June 16–21, 2009 (4 credits)

Water Rights and the American West



“Water has become imperiled, not through the deliberate actions of evil men, the corporate rapists of ecological fantasy, but through the small doings of many – far too many – ordinary people, doing things the way they have always done them” – Marq de Villers



American western water law and policy have been a source of increased public interest and philosophical debate, especially in recent years, as human pressures increase and water dependent ecosystems become more distressed.

This four-credit course examines conflict over water rights in the American West. Using the Deschutes Basin in Central Oregon as a case study, we will study water law and policy, examine the root causes of conflicts

over water and innovative approaches used to resolve them. We will spend six days in the field exploring the unique ecology of the basin and meeting with landowners, wildlife biologists, irrigation district managers, tribal managers, economists, water traders, and environmentalists. Students will be required to complete a set of pre-course readings and will complete two post-course assignments including a term paper.

Instructor approval required. Must be comfortable camping and have basic camping gear. Course fee of \$210.00 will cover transportation, camping fees and food.

This course can be applied towards Area 5 and applicable Area 3B themes for both Environmental Studies and Science majors

Contact Kirsten Rudestam for more information at krudesta@uoregon.edu

