

Summer Field Course

ENVS 410 June 18 – 23, 2007 (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 resources become depleted 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 Eastern 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 meeting with landowners, wildlife biologists, irrigation district managers, tribal managers, economists, water traders, and environmentalists in the Deschutes Basin. The course will culminate in an overnight raft trip on the Deschutes River. 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 \$250.00 will cover rafting trip, transportation, camping fees and some food.

This course can be applied towards the following Area 3B themes: 1) Environmental Economics, Policy, & Politics or 2) Society and the Environment

Contact Steve Mital for more information at smital@uoregon.edu

