

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

ENR 2490 – Topics – A Natural History of Casper Mountain

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 3

Credit Hours: 4

Class Time: 1:00 - 1:50 PM
12:30 - 3:15 PM

Days: MWF
Th

Room: EI 116
CMSS

Instructor's Name: Evert Brown

Instructor's Contact Information:

Office:

EI 111.

Feel free to leave a phone or email message anytime.

Office Phone:

307/268-2407

Email:

ebrown@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 3:15 - 7:00 PM, and by appointment.

Course Description: This is a lecture/lab course that emphasizes exploring the natural history and resources of Casper Mountain. Lecture will focus on the scientific principles and processes that impact mountain environments. Those principles and processes include measuring flora and fauna distribution and abundance in association with the local geology. Lab will research how those principles and processes apply to Casper Mountain. Students will collect data during lab to be analyzed and discussed during lecture. A final presentation will be given. This course satisfies the science and inquiry requirement for graduation. It is appropriate for non-science majors as well as science majors.

Statement of Prerequisites: none.

Goal: This course will provide the student with an opportunity to experience science from a "science is all around us" perspective.

Learning Outcomes: This course will familiarize the student with the natural history of Casper Mountain. They will learn how natural history impacts culture locally.

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication describing student learning achievements. (General Ed Outcome #1)
2. Students will develop conclusions from experiences. (General Ed Outcome #2, 3)
3. Students will apply their experiences in this course to additional applications. (General Ed Outcome #6, 7)

Course Objectives: The following objectives apply.

1. This course will provide interdisciplinary exposure to the Casper Mountain area.
2. Students will gain an experiential knowledge of Casper Mountain.
3. Students will examine the ecological and geological processes that occur on a mountain.
4. Students will use appropriate technology and information to conduct research.
5. Students will use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.
6. Students will solve problems using critical thinking and creativity.
7. Students will use the scientific method by asking focused questions, making purposeful observations, designing and conducting experiments, analyzing data, and developing appropriate conclusions.
8. Students will apply those conclusions toward different or new constructs.
9. Students will present their findings in appropriate forums.

Methodology: Methods will include lecture, field investigations, demonstrations, online, video, service, class discussions, group projects, writing, oral reports, and other hands-on experiences.

Evaluation Criteria: Evaluation of student performance will be through exams, a journal, lab reports, and a final presentation with a paper. Each exam may be comprehensive. Lab reports will be graded periodically throughout the semester. Keeping a Field Notebook/Journal will be required. A final presentation will be given in an appropriate forum. A final scientific paper will accompany the presentation. Points will be assigned to each. In the end, the points that are earned will determine the final grade. Simple percentage of points accumulated will determine final letter grade: 90% is an A; 80% is a B; 70% is a C; 60% is a D; and <60% is failing. I reserve the right to consider attendance as a mitigating factor in final grade determination. There is no extra credit and deadlines are strictly enforced.

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials: Various readings will be assigned. No particular text is required. Students should dress appropriately for each lab. Skis, snowshoes, and/or waders may be appropriate for certain lab exercises. Binoculars and a hand lens are highly recommended. Some of this equipment may be available through the department. Students may be expected from time to time to perform exercises at times other than those scheduled in the catalog or syllabus. A composition notebook is required for the field journal which is a course expectation.

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: November 12, 2015

Note- Inherent in this course are frequent trips to Casper Mountain and to Casper Mountain Science School. Never should a student interrupt or join with activities at CMSS.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: Pending.