

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS
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Nov. 4, 2009

From: Prof. Don Corrigan, Journalism
To: Curriculum Committee, Webster University
Re: Program Proposal:

Outdoor/Environmental Journalism Certificate

The accompanying proposal is the culmination of discussions with the Dean of the SOC, faculty with the Environmental Studies Program at Webster, the Department of Communications and Journalism and the students in the journalism program of the SOC.

CERTIFICATE IN OUTDOOR/ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM (catalog copy)

The certificate program in Outdoor/Environmental Journalism provides students with a basic understanding of outdoor and environmental issues and how to communicate about those issues. Students obtaining a certificate will study the history and the best writing in the areas of outdoor and the environmental journalism, and they will be required to develop their own portfolio of writing projects in this area.

CERTIFICATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite for Certificate: JOURN 1030 or WRIT 2072 or equivalent.

18-19 hours (core courses)

21-22 hours (with prerequisite of journalism or writing course)

(over)

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REQUIRED COURSES

<u>•Prerequisite Coursework:</u>	<u>(3 hours)</u>	
JOUR 1030 or WRIT2072 or equivalent writing course		3
<u>•Journalism Coursework:</u>	<u>(9 hours))</u>	
JOUR 2350: Outdoor/Nature Journalism		3
JOUR 2750: Reporting Disaster Stories		3
JOUR 3750: Environmental Journalism and Communications		3
<u>•Environmental Studies Coursework:</u>	<u>(9-10 hours)</u>	
GNST 1300: Technology, Science and Society		3
ISTL 2600 / BIO1318: Natural Systems & Sustainable Ecology		3
	(or)	
SCIN 1520 & 1521: Environment and Environmental Lab		4
PHIL 2360: Environmental Ethics		3
	(or)	
HRTS 3400: Human Rights and the Environment		3
Total:		<hr/> 21-22

(Note rationale on Environmental Studies Coursework: 3 hours of intro. course; 3 hours of science-oriented course; 3 hours of values-oriented coursework).

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: NEW JOURNALISM COURSES

Course: Journalism 2350, Outdoor/Nature Journalism

This course has a three-fold purpose: to acquaint new journalists and writers with the best works of those who have found inspiration for their prose from the outdoors; to familiarize student writers with journalism about nature sites in the Missouri and Midwest region; to encourage developing outdoor/nature writers to experiment with expository and advocacy journalism.

Course: Journalism 2750, Reporting Natural Disasters

This course provides aspiring journalists and writers on climate with the tools necessary to report on climatology and on natural phenomena that result in disaster for flora, fauna - and humans. Missouri and the Midwest provide an excellent location for field study and historical analysis when it comes to disaster coverage. Students will learn how to report on weather trauma from tornadoes, floods, lightning, snow storms, ice storms, temperature extremes and more.