

ESCI FIELD CAMP CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

ESCI FIELD CAMP COURSES: ESCI 408, ESCI 409, ESCI 433, ESCI 434 Dates _____

Student's Name _____ W# _____

The student is enrolled in the above set of field courses (hereinafter called "course").

The Conditions of Participation will guide and inform the student of certain required policies and procedures regarding participation in the course. Credit will be granted upon the student's successful completion of the course, which includes following these conditions.

1. BEHAVIORAL

The student is aware of their behavioral responsibilities while participating in this course. Participants spend several weeks in remote, a wilderness location during winter. The pressures of living and studying in this environment can be considerable and students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Certain behaviors are considered unacceptable and may result in dismissal from the course without notice and without refund.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

The student will, at all times, comply with the Participant Code of Conduct.

Students will:

1. Comply with the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, Washington Administrative Code WAC 516-21](#) (Western's Office of Student Conduct)
2. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights and well-being of other course participants, and to encourage others to behave in a similar manner. This expectation applies at all times and to all places for the duration of the course.
3. Behave in a manner that is respectful of the rights of other people the class may encounter during the course; during the course, students are de facto representatives of Western, and are expected to behave in a way that protects the reputation and good standing of the University.
4. Abide by all attendance policies of the course, including those for classes, excursions and assignments, and to adhere to the course schedule. Since the course is academic and involves coordination with others, student's personal activities must not conflict with the course schedule.
5. Comply with applicable federal, state, Tribal, and local laws or regulations in which they are living and studying. Students are not afforded any special privileges with the law and course leaders have no special authority to assist a student who is arrested. Ignorance cannot be accepted as an excuse by students for non-compliance with local laws or regulations. Known violation of local laws may result in dismissal from the course.

6. Know and follow the [Leave No Trace seven principles and backcountry regulations](#) in order to protect the wilderness:
 - Plan Ahead and Prepare
 - Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
 - Dispose of All Waste Properly
 - Leave What You Find
 - Minimize Campfire Impacts
 - Respect Wildlife
 - Be Considerate of Other Visitors

7. Maintain personal behavior consistent with [course norms](#), and support efforts of other program participants to conform to the norms.

Unacceptable Behaviors:

Western Washington University reserves the right to dismiss any student for reasons of unacceptable behavior. Dismissal will be without refund, and all costs related to return transportation will be at the student's expense. The following behaviors are considered unacceptable:

1. **Use, possession, and trafficking of illegal drugs and other illegal substances.** Varying laws make possession or use of illegal drugs punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. Students found using or possessing illegal drugs in any form will be subject to immediate expulsion from the course and further disciplinary action on the part of Western Washington University. Marijuana is included under this provision.

2. **Consumption and possession of alcohol.** Student agrees to refrain from alcohol use and possession throughout field excursions, including travel to and from field sites. Abuse of alcohol will be punished according to local laws and will, additionally, result in a review by the course leader. Further discipline will reflect the circumstances of the infraction, and will range from formal reprimand to expulsion from the course. Driving, or even riding as a passenger, while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited. Consumption or transport of alcohol is prohibited in Western Washington University vehicles, including rented vehicles.

3. **Indecent, lewd, or disorderly conduct (including that resulting from drunkenness), unreasonable noise, or behavior that results in unreasonable annoyance.**

4. **Violent behavior, intimidation, bullying and/or any other behavior identified as an endangerment to oneself or others.**

5. **Verbal or physical harassment, sexual harassment or any form of discrimination of others.**

6. **Failure to comply with the instructions or directives of course leaders acting in performance of their duties.** Students are expected to refrain from engaging in activities that are considered unsafe or unacceptable by course leaders.

7. **Inciting others to engage in any of the unacceptable behaviors.**

Procedures for Disciplinary Action:

If a student's conduct violates this Participant Code of Conduct, their behavior will be quickly brought into alignment with appropriate norms. In such cases, the following actions will be taken:

- A **written warning** will be given to the student that describes the violation and which warns the student of disciplinary actions, including dismissal from the class, if another offense occurs. A copy of the warning will be sent when feasible to the Environmental Science Department for coordination with the Student Conduct Officer or Dean of Students.
- If a second offense occurs, the course leader will directly notify the Student Conduct Officer or Dean of Students. A **decision to expel** the student will be a decision made by the course leader, Environmental Science Department and Student Conduct Officer or Dean of Students in consultation with other Western Washington University administrators, as appropriate.

Notwithstanding the Participant Code of Conduct, Western Washington University reserves the right to immediately expel from the course any student that engages in any behavior that is deemed by course leaders to seriously jeopardize the course or its participants in any way.

2. HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Health:

The student acknowledges that there are certain health and safety risks inherent with living and studying in remote, wilderness locations. With that in mind, the participant completes a *Field Course Medical Report* and medical screening process with a physician. The student is expected to have honestly evaluated their current physical and mental health in light of the risks and consulted with healthcare providers as necessary with respect to any individual medical or mental health issues or needs. Sometimes there are physical and mental health conditions that would be incompatible with a field course due to the safety of the participant and others.

Reporting Injuries or Illnesses:

The student agrees to immediately report all injuries or illnesses, regardless of cause, to course leaders.

Consent to Emergency Services:

The student acknowledges that on rare occasions a medical or mental health emergency may develop which necessitates immediate medical attention. Therefore, in event of such injury or illness, the student hereby authorizes course leaders to arrange any necessary emergency medical treatment or services including, but not limited to, medical evacuation, administration of medical care, hospitalization, anesthetics and surgery, or any other emergency services.

Medical Insurance:

Western Washington University cannot assume responsibility for the payment of emergency medical treatment or services, including medical evacuation, for its students. The student agrees to assume all such responsibility and maintains appropriate medical insurance coverage for this reason.

3. RISKS:

Acknowledgement of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement:

The student has read, signed and understands the field course's *Acknowledgement of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement*. Read this form carefully and understand it before signing.

Personal Back-Up Plan:

The student agrees to arrange a personal back-up plan in the event they must leave for any reason before the end of the course. Course leaders or EMS will deliver the student to the nearest town with appropriate transportation options, which will be identified during course orientations. However, the student must have a personal back-up plan for returning home from there (see course's *Acknowledgement of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement*). The student will make arrangements with family or friends to immediately pick them up at the nearest town when so notified, or will research their available options for commercial travel and be prepared to use and pay for them.

Driving Vehicles:

The student acknowledges that:

- He/she must complete the *Basic Driver Safety Program* and, if applicable, the *Large Passenger Van Training* before operating a motor vehicle on behalf of Western Washington University;
- They are required to have a valid Washington State driver's license (per Washington State Law RCW 46.20) to operate a motor vehicle on behalf of Western Washington University. The student agrees to immediately notify course leaders if their driver's license is ever revoked or suspended or otherwise ceases to be valid;
- University motor vehicles may only be used for "official university business", which means use as directed and authorized by course leaders in order to accomplish official course activities, and does not include personal use;
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or substances is prohibited; and
- They will comply with all applicable traffic laws.

Guests:

The student acknowledges that they may invite guests to join them for short periods of time during the course, but **MUST** check with course leaders about logistics and timing, and to seek approval, before making invitations. Students are responsible for their guest's behavior (per *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code WAC 516-21*). Guests are expected to comply with all instructions and directives of course leaders, University policies and procedures, as well as all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Students may be held responsible by course leaders for any alleged violations committed by their guests.

Extended Travel Plans:

The student acknowledges that when they voluntarily choose to extend their travel plans, by date or location, beyond their participation in the course, they agree that this extended travel is for their own personal pleasure and not associated with the course in any way, and thus agree to accept any and all risks associated with it, including but not limited to, all forms of property damage or loss, minor bodily injury, severe bodily injury, and death.

4. FINANCIAL:

The student agrees to the following policies and procedures regarding Financial Responsibility:

Course fees: Course fees are variable, depending on many external factors that may change each year. Therefore, students will be notified of the course fees and payment methods before registration.

Refunds: Due to requirements for advance payment of many program expenses, refunds of course fees may not be possible after the first week of spring quarter.

I have read and understand these Conditions of Participation.

Signature of Student
(Must be age 18 or over)

Date