

Portland's Water: From Forest to Faucet

PSU Capstone Class, Fall 2012

Tuesday/Thursday 1400-1550

SRTC 139D

Course Description: This course is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about tap water and create community outreach products for the Portland Water Bureau. Our community partner for this class is the Portland Water Bureau. This class will focus on the Bull Run watershed (the source of Portland's drinking water) and the challenges of delivering water to the tap. We will learn about the history of the water system, the delivery system, water quality, regulations, current issues, and other topics that peak our interest during the term. The class will work with the Water Bureau to develop community outreach products to inform our fellow citizens about our water system.

Professor: Catherine Howells, PhD

Office: 370B Urban Center

Office hours: 1300 - 13:45 T/TR, and by appointment

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Community Partner

Portland Water Bureau

1120 SW 5th Avenue 5th Floor

Portland, OR 97204

website: portlandonline.com/water

Liaison: Ross Turkus

(503) 823-1038

Ross.Turkus@portlandoregon.gov

City Resources

Stanley Parr Archives and Records Center

PSU Recreation Center. 5th Floor

website: portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=26978

File search: portlandonline.com/efiles

Contact: Brian Johnson

Multnomah County Central Library

801 S.W. 10th Avenue

Portland OR 97205

(Bull Run Interest Group File)

Guiding Principles

Capstone courses are designed to provide an opportunity for you to apply the expertise you have developed in your major and in University Studies to real issues and problems in our local community. They are designed to enhance each student's ability to collaborate with other students and the Capstone partner within a team context. Finally, they are designed to encourage active involvement in the community. This Capstone will be a hands-on experience that will require your flexibility and willingness to stretch and explore as individuals and in the group work. Capstones are unique opportunities to use what you have learned as a student at PSU for the enrichment of the larger community.

Course Objectives: (skills both University Studies and I want you to possess after completing this course):

- The ability to do research, writing, and presentation in written and visual formats. **UNST Goal: Inquiry & critical thinking** (research; response journal; discussions)
- The ability to understand the historical record, written or visual, as integral to understanding social inquiry in general, with an emphasis on issues of public history. **UNST Goal: Inquiry and critical thinking** (research; response journal; discussions)
- To have hands-on experiences by creating information products and to enhance students' facility and confidence with written and oral communication. **UNST Goals: Communication** (between classmates; between the class and our partner; with the public)
- The ability to work collaboratively, with an emphasis on making interdisciplinary connections in your various assignments and projects. **UNST Goals: Variety of human experience; Social Responsibility**
- To develop a meaningful public program for the community partner.
UNST Goals: Communication; Variety of human experience; Social Responsibility
- To facilitate students' building of healthy and functional relationships around both differences and likenesses experienced within the classroom community and with the community partner's constituencies **UNST Goal: Appreciation of diversity**

Participation

Capstone classes depend on regular attendance for the group process to work and the individual student to be successful. Each student's ability to meet individual and collective deadlines is critical. This means that you show up on time to class and do not leave early. Constructive participation constitutes more than just showing up to class. You should come to class:

- Ready to contribute to discussion, planning sessions, and small group work (your contributions here will indicate that you read the assigned materials or completed out-of-class assignments)
- Prepared for team and class work sessions (bring notes, ideas, and appropriate materials)
- Willing to take on additional tasks when appropriate

Each student has one excused absence (instructor contacted by phone message or email prior to class). It is your responsibility to make up work time missed in class and coordinate how to make up work that your classmates/group are depending on you to produce.

Partner assignment: Water Bureau Community Outreach Products

I will use the following guidelines to assess each product:

- Product was completed
- Team met project deadlines
- Product shows exceptional initiative, care, and the effort of all team members
- Product served partner needs
- Changes suggested by the community partner and/or the instructor were made
- Product and final presentation were professional

Response Journals

The class will develop response journal questions for each assignment. Each response journal entry should include most, if not all, of the following:

- Connections between the readings, research, class discussions, meetings with community partner, etc.
- Critical analysis of your research; is it effective, useful, relevant to the larger project.
- A personal response to your work
- Responses of what you are learning in this process and how this relates to your overall experiences as part of PSU and the broader Portland community

Submitting Journal entries

- All journal entries may be submitted via email, hardcopy in class, or handwritten
- Label each journal with your name and the question you are discussing
- **Late journal entries will receive at .5 overall grade deduction**

NOTE: I will deduct .5 of the overall grade for each piece of work that is late and for each unexcused absence.

You will not receive a grade for this class until you have returned all texts and/or equipment borrowed from the instructor, the community partner, and/or the University.

Time expectations

Capstone courses are intensive classes. In addition to the time you spend in class, you will also need to schedule time to do the assigned readings, write your response journals, complete tasks related to the final public presentation, conduct research and create the content of your contribution to the community outreach product.

Text and Partial List of Sources

Short, Casey, *Water: Portland's Precious Heritage*, 2nd ed. ,2011. City of Portland [CD]

American Water Works Association: awwa.org

Environmental Protection Agency: epa.gov/safewater

New York Times series on drinking water: nytimes.com/toxic-waters

World Health Organization: who.int/water_sanitation_health

Circle of Blue: circleofblue.org

Fall 2012 Portland's Water Capstone Calendar

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Sept 25 Introduction to Capstone and to each other. How does water get to the tap/where does it come from?

Sept 27 Portland's water system, history, current issues and working with the Portland Water Bureau - organization and speakers Ross Turkus: Liaison with Portland Water Bureau. Former students' Capstone

products. Class discussion. First response journal instructions initial impressions.

Reading: Chapters 1-4

- Oct. 2 Overview of drinking water: regulations, budget, challenges
Reading: Chapters 5-7
- Oct 4 The Bull Run Watershed with Dick Robbins - at PWB Chinook Room, 14th Floor**
- Oct 9 Dams and PWB Katrina Response with Mike Stuhr**
- Oct 11 TOUR OF BULL RUN WATERSHED (9-5)**
Reading: Chapters 7-11
- Oct 16 Water Quality and LT2 with Rich Giani (PWB)**
- Oct 1 Ideas for product deliverables. Teams. First response journal due. Second response journal (comparison with another US city)
- Oct 23 Tour of Interstate facility with Geoff Chew and Chris Wanner (meet at Mississippi/Albina Yellow line Max stop by 2:10)**
- Oct 25 Review of draft products with Water Bureau.** Discussion of Portland water issues. Second response journal due.
Reading: Chapter 12
- Oct 30 of Ty Kovatch: PWB Maintenance and the politics and challenges water -- from City Hall to the tap**
- Nov 1 TVWD and regional water issues with Mark Knudson, TVWD**
- Nov 6 Aging Infrastructure and Asset Management with Jeff Leighton.**
- Nov 8 Water in context -- issues around the world with Water for People and Carla Ralston -- Third Response journal instructions on world issue.
- Nov 13 Powell Butte II with Teresa Elliott**
- Nov 15 Tour of Mt. Tabor**
- Nov 20 Practice final presentations with class input. Third Response Journal due (Final response journal instructions: What I learned in this class)
- Nov 27 Formal presentation of products at WATER BUREAU**

Nov 29

Lessons learned. Final response journal due at Exit Interview. Sign-up for Exit Interviews