

**University of Northern Colorado
School of Social Sciences
Office of Extended Studies
Summer 2010**

GEOG 392-623: Gunnison River: Riparian Geography

Dr. James Dunn

Office: Candelaria 2080 on the UNC Campus

Address: Box 115, Greeley, CO 80639

Phone/voice-mail: 970-351-2834

(Geography Main Office phone: 351-2715)

E-mail: james.dunn@unco.edu

Course Website: <http://geography.unco.edu/departments/coursepages.html> then choose Gunnison or Colorado River Trips.

Credit: 3 semester hours

Total Contact Hours: 12.0 Lecture and 35 Field Hours

Notice

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

Date course will be offered: Lectures:

Monday May 10, 2010 9:30 am to 1:30 pm;

Tuesday May 11, 2010 9:30 am to 1:30 pm;

Wednesday May 12, 2010 9:30 am to 1:30 pm;

Field Trip is Friday May 28 to Sunday, May 30, 2010

Time:

May 28: 7:00 am to 8:00 pm;

May 29: 7:00 am to 8:00 pm;

May 30: 7:00 am to 3 pm

Target Audience: Advanced undergraduate students in geography and related sciences

Location: Gunnison River, from Escalante to Whitewater, Colorado.

Special Requirements: none

Course Enrollment: Maximum 24, Minimum 10

Coordinator:

* Centennial Canoe Outfitters, Inc.

PO Box 3365

Centennial CO 80161-3365

Phone: 720-283-0553; **Fax** 303-347-8296

Gunnison River: Riparian Geography 392

Dates: May 10-12 Lecture at UNC (9:30 to 1:30) (Regis students meet May 19-21 at a location TBA)

River Trip: May 28-30

Cost: \$270 plus 3-credit tuition. These fees include equipment, outfitters fees, & food. You need to provide transportation to and from the Grand Junction area. Typically, a gratuity is paid to the guides of about 10% of their fee.

Instructor: Dr. James Dunn, Department of Geography, Box 115 UNC

Website:

<http://geography.unco.edu/department/faculty/DUNN/Colorado%20River%20Geography/Gunnison%20River%20Geog%20UNC.htm>

Course Description and Prerequisites

You engage in the fundamentals of geography field research, focused on the natural geography of rivers in Western Colorado. Asking geographic questions, identifying the kinds of data needed from the field, planning for field work, working in teams, making field observations and recording data in field journals is central to the course. Basic and advanced skills are included to address both physical and environmental geography. This includes the use of specialized equipment, maps, data storage devices, and more practical skills in transporting data and samples back to laboratories. You also learn how to refine questions in the field, inspired by on-site observations. Refining data collection can also take place in the field. Introductory Physical Geography or physical science is recommended.

Course Objectives

- Understand the role of field work in geographic inquiry
- Connect field observations and data to established concepts in geography
- Practice acquiring, organizing, and interpreting geographic data
- Select and design appropriate instruments and plans to collect field data tied to specific geographic questions
- Bridge geographic concepts to field environments

Outline of Course Content

- 1) Introduction: how does field work tie into geographic inquiry?
 - a) Asking geographic questions and identifying the kinds and sources of data to address the questions
 - b) Importance of field work, field-truthing, and connections to spatial learning, attitudes about learning, durability of experiential learning
 - c) Physical and environmental geography field work
 - d) Quantitative and qualitative field work
- 2) Investigation: Topic Identification and Exploration
 - a) Specific geographic question for study: This course begins by examining the physical geography of exotic rivers in a desert landscape. All aspects of the operational environment are reviewed.
 - b) Data sources and access in the field; equipment needs
 - c) Skills and data recording (techniques practice, journal keeping)
 - d) Teamwork, team design, task assignments, field efficiency
- 3) Field Time: Data Collection, Recording, Field Analysis
 - a) Supervised time to continue data collection, overcoming field problems
 - b) Seminar: asking and refining geographic field questions
 - c) Post Field Time: Data Transport, Storage, Processing

Required Readings (readings and class lecture notes provided on course website)**Suggested Additional Reading:**

Lounsbury, J.F., and Aldrich, F.T. 1986. *Introduction to Geographic Field Methods and Techniques, 2nd Edition*. Columbus, OH: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company.

Course Requirements

- 1) Complete pre-field trip readings (40 points) and review map sectionals in preparation for the initial meeting. A short exam (100 points) is administered on the river trip that reviews the readings and knowledge of the field plan and tests your ability to apply skills to new problems.
- 2) Two field quizzes (40 points total) check skills introduced and practiced in class.

- 3) Field Journal (40 points) with complete sets of observations, maps, sketches, and organized data tables.
- 4) Participation (80 points) in all field exercises and class meetings.

AND

Projects. There are three related projects that contribute to the grade for this course:

1. **Individual Project 1:** Find one Tammy that you can reasonably cut down with a partner. Cut it as close as possible to the ground (we have permission from the Federal Bureau of Land Management to do this AWAY from designated camping areas). Cut it again to remove two disks about 1 inch thick. Give one disk to your partner, then continue this assignment alone. Use coarse sandpaper to smooth one surface. Use finer sandpaper to finish the smoothing. Use a magnifying lens. Start at the center and count the tree rings until you reach the bark. The outer most rings are most recent. Make a list of the years the tree was alive in your journal. Add notes next to the rings that show either unusually large amount of growth or unusually small amount of growth. Compare your sample data to the ring data distributed in class. On one side of a page, discuss your sample, comparing it to data you have and to other samples collected by classmates. (80 points)
2. **Team Project:** Calculate the amount of water going by our campsite (in cubic feet per second). Use any and all methods reviewed in class as well as your own ideas. (80 points)
3. **Team Project:** For a stream designated along our route, your team will work to identify the Level II classification with cross-sectional measurements, longitudinal profile, and plan-form measurements. (40 points)

Course Grade

The course grade is based on a point system, with a total of 500 points possible to earn during the course. It is your responsibility to keep track of all points you earn. Your grade is based on the total points you accumulate on all exams, quizzes, exercises, and activities, according to this scale:

Grade	Grade Points	Percentage	Minimum on a 500 Point Scale
A	4	93-100%	465
A-	3.67	90-92.99%	450
B+	3.33	87-89.99%	435
B	3	83-86.99%	415
B-	2.67	80-82.99%	400
C+	2.33	77-79.99%	385
C	2	73-76.99%	365
C-	1.67	70-72.99%	350
D+	1.33	67-69.99%	335
D	1	63-66.99%	315
D-	0.67	60-62.99%	300
F	0	Below 60%	<300

Disability Support Services

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

Student Satisfaction Evaluation

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

Course Withdrawal Information

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after April 30, 2010, you are legally responsible for payment of full tuition. In order to be *eligible* to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.