

COURSE SYLLABUS – Geog 453

Field Studies in Coastal and Marine Resources: Community-engaged conservation

Jan 3, 2018 – April 12, 2018 (Exact Course Dates TBD)

Instructor: Dan Harrison, Raincoast Education Society

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Course Summary

Clayoquot Sound is a unique geographic region on the West Coast of Vancouver Island defined by a rich cultural history, a diverse and complex natural landscape, and a strong conservation movement marked by decades of environmental battles. The region is home to the largest tracts of old-growth temperate rainforest on Vancouver Island, and supports a thriving community of front-line conservationists working to uphold the natural integrity of the region, from Nuu-chah-nulth Guardians and Tribal Parks to scientists and educators. The focus of this course is to immerse students in the work of conservation through partnerships with local organizations in the development of term projects.

As the only term-long course of the semester, classes will be held in the inter-class periods between other courses, and will serve as a unifying course tying other topics together into real-life projects. Students will gain an understanding into the present-day socio-political landscape of conservation in Clayoquot Sound, and develop projects that directly benefit the local community. This course will have a strong field focus to provide students with hands-on learning experiences, while also providing opportunities for guest lectures and discussion.

Course Evaluation:

Participation 30%

Term Project 70% (individual or group projects)

Course Readings:

Pre-course readings consist of personal research of the following organizations: Raincoast Education Society, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, Ahousaht Guardians, West Coast Aquatic, Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society, Thornton Creek Hatchery, Central Westcoast Forest Society, Wetland Stewards of Clayoquot and Barkley Sound, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, Clayoquot Action, Friends of Clayoquot Sound. Students should arrive with a good understanding of these key players and their roles in the conservation community. Early knowledge of these partner organizations will assist students in identifying and developing term projects. Additional course readings will be available on Course Spaces.