

ESS 320 / AIS 320 / ENVIR 320 Spring 2011

T & Th 2:00-3:20 5 credits, no prerequisites (Natural World)

Changing Rivers of Puget Sound



This course examines the physical and ecological evolution of Puget Sound rivers and the changing interactions of people, rivers, and ecosystems over the last 18,000 years.

Topics include: (1) geologic origins and processes shaping Puget Sound rivers and estuaries and the ecosystems they support; (2) the changing relationship between people, rivers, and resources such as salmon; (3) the nature and extent of anthropogenic changes to rivers; (4) methods for detecting and evaluating environmental change; (5) historical context of resource management and restoration, including how Native American treaty rights influence resource management and restoration issues; and (6) consideration of alternative futures for Puget Sound rivers, taking into account factors such as population growth, river restoration, and climate change.

Classes will include lectures and labs. There are two all-day Saturday field trips (required) to the Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers and to the Duwamish River watershed. There are no prerequisites.



Instructors: Brian Collins, Tom Colonnese, Cindy Updegrave
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