



Spring 2025

NATURAL HISTORY OF MOUNT SAINT HELENS

A TOUR OF A WORLD CLASS VOLCANO

Main Campus (1933 Fort Vancouver Way), Bldg. AA4, Room #107B

Instructor: Prof. Kyle Dittmer

Phone: (503) 731-1314

E-Mail: kdittmer@clark.edu

Course Description (Item #40777, Fee \$75):

Learn about the geology, plants, and fish/wildlife assets, plus human exploration, of a world-class active volcano here in our backyard. An optional field trip to a MSH visitors' center is also offered at the end of the course. Taught by a M.S. level trained Geologist who's visited the volcano many times since the 1980 eruption.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about the geology of volcanoes, what forms and drives them, and MSH in particular
- Examination of rock hand-specimens to better understand how volcanoes come into being
- Learn how the landscape and ecosystem/biota have been transformed
- Learn about the human dimension – early history and exploration
- Learn how the studies of MSH have benefited humanity and the sciences
- Learn about ways to visit the volcano and future options

Course Schedule (Mondays; May 5th, 12th, 19th; 6 pm to 8 pm):

Week 1: Overview of Plate Tectonic Theory; Volcanic Geology (rocks and landforms).

Week 2: Events leading up to the 1980 MSH eruption; Transformation of the MSH landscape; Current variety of plant, animal, and fish populations around MSH. Film: The Eruption of MSH.

Week 3: Human exploration, settlement, and recreation; Native American stories of MSH; Future of MSH. Field Trip: MSH Visitor/Interpretive Center (Castle Rock/Silver Lake, WA).



Selected Bibliography/Resources:

- "TBA"

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your "junk mail," but we can assure you it's from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website:

www.clark.edu ~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage:

www.clark.edu/cce/