

## FEET MEET BRAIN, BRAIN MEET FEET!



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## Freshmen explore options in program

Discover Oregon has varied courses with small class sizes to explore the University

By Tricia Schwennesen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nervous energy filled the air as 15 freshmen crowded into the small music room.

Syllabi were quickly handed out and logistics taken care of before the class launched into an animated discussion about a 4-minute piece of music by Haydn.

"I think it's going to be a very interesting class," said Sanjay Schmidt, a freshman from New Mexico. "I just really wanted to expand my knowledge of music, and I thought this would be a good way to do it."

The music class could have been any freshman-level class, but it is part of the Discover Oregon program, a program geared toward freshmen who have not declared a major.

The program helps guide freshmen through their first year at the University and provides them with the opportunity to build a solid foundation become part of a community.

"The classes are deliberately small, so everyone can get to know everyone else and develop a sense of extended family," professor Robert Hurwitz said.

The Discover Oregon program joins the Freshman Interest Groups and Freshman Seminars, programs based on learning communities, small subgroups of students who share similar interests and classes.

"My advisor told me about it, and I wanted to be involved with



Matt Garton/Emerald

Professor Robert Hurwitz teaches a Discover Oregon class for the School of Music.

music somehow," said Chelsea Jackson, a freshman from Redmond. "This is the smallest class I have."

Jackson said she's undecided about her major but is taking classes ranging from sociology to music to help her get an idea.

Learning communities help students develop a sense of identity and encourage them to continue their educations at the University.

"Studies have shown that students who are undecided about their major and career goals are more prone to dropping out of school," said Sherri J. Willard Argyres, assistant director of student retention programs.

Since fall quarter 1996, 80.3 percent of the freshman class has continued taking classes for at least one year, said Pete Bauer, senior assistant registrar.

The Discover Oregon program is a series of 16 one-credit classes that was created by the College of Arts and Sciences, said Jane DeGidio, the director of student retention programs.

The classes run the gamut of disciplines and include titles such as "Women in Electoral Politics in Oregon," "Inside Musical Instruments" and even "Sports, Games and Shows in the Ancient World."

"It's like a comfortably paced year-long orientation," Willard Argyres said.

Hurwitz said freshmen sometimes feel as though they don't belong or don't have a place because they don't have a major yet.

"We don't want to push students to declare a major," Willard Argyres said. "But we really want to help students find what they want to do."

## Still Looking for that Last Perfect Class?

Are you looking for a little flexibility in your course schedule?

The Distance Education Program at the Continuation Center still has room available in classes for the Fall. Look on page 62 in the Fall Schedule of Classes for information and then register through Duck Call. Watch for most classes again in Winter.

Last day to add is October 7.

Complete course details are available at <http://de.uoregon.edu/>

### Web-based

Computer-based instruction, readings in a textbook, homework via e-mail, exams in the SSIL labs. Must attend a 1 hour orientation in 72 PLC at one of the following times: October 7 at 3 p.m.,

October 8 at 6 p.m., or October 9 at 11 a.m.

EC 201: Introduction to Microeconomics

EC 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics

LING 150: Structure of English Words

PS 201: United States Politics

PS 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics

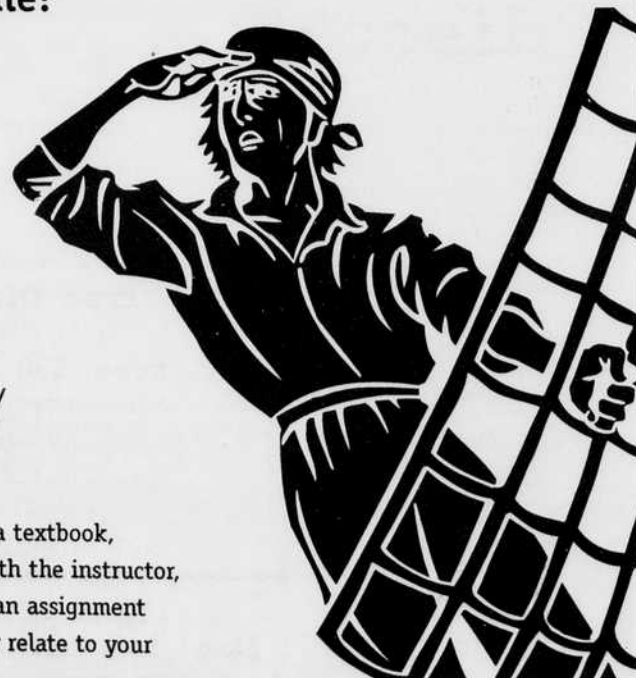
### Traditional

Independent readings in a textbook, e-mail correspondence with the instructor, handwritten exams, and an assignment on current events as they relate to your course topic.

GEOL 304: Fossil Record

GEOL 307: Oceanography

GEOL 308: Oregon and Pacific Northwest



University of Oregon  A Distance

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