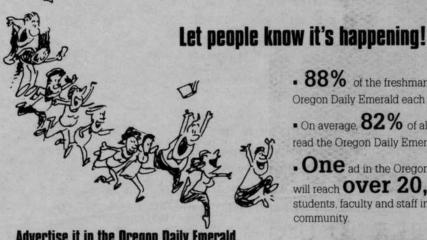
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Seminars provide additional credits

■ Weekend seminars offer students a way to earn credits while learning about a range of topics

By Jessica Etheridge for the Emerald

It's no longer a secret. A large per-

centage of University students have discovered a way to earn extra credits over the weekend: seminars.

Seminars are pass/no pass and can be taken for two days and for up to two credits.

Most seminars take place on the weekend. Typically they begin at 8 a.m., pause for a one-hour lunch break, then continue until 5 p.m. Students are usually given at least a pair of 15-minute stretch breaks.

Participants are asked to take hourly quizzes to verify their presence. At the completion of the seminar, students are then given essay questions to complete.

For two-day seminars, students are usually required to complete twelve essay questions to determine their pass/no pass status. The one-day seminars require completing six of twelve questions.

The journalism school's assistant dean for student services Greg Kerber, believes that seminars can be an easy way for students to squeeze in those last few credits as well as to be a meaningful experience.

"It appears that many of the seminar topics are timely and may be relevant to students, either personally, or in relation to situations they may be writing about profes-

Kerber's only concern is that students may potentially register for more than 20 credits by including seminars. He encourages students to not rush graduation.

"If the substance of the seminar or any other elective course outside the University and major requirements is appropriate, that's what counts," Kerber said.

Greg Hartman, a senior accounting major, participated in a seminar about sexually transmitted diseases and summed up the experience as being less than easy.

"All day in a classroom is a lit-tle harsh," he said.

Most participants agreed that the experience was well worth the sacrifice, not only for the credit but also for the overall experience.

Shannon Smith, a senior business major, admits to wanting, "a quick, easy two credits." Although, she, like many other seminar participants, walked away with more than that.

Last spring, a seminar about alcohol and drugs included a speaker whose children were killed in a car accident. Kinley Engdahl-Johnson, a junior journalism major, recalls the experience as "extremely moving.

"I went in wanting a credit and came out with a whole new outlook on drinking," Kinley said.

Many seminars are still available. Several can be found in the schedule of classes under "Education" with the subhead of "Substance Abuse Prevention Program."

