

## Summer school turns up the heat

Students should be careful not to overload themselves if they plan on taking classes during summer session — the workload is hotter than the sun

The heat is on. Well almost, anyway. In about four weeks, students will have walked out of their last spring final, ready to take on whatever summer may bring. Can I get a big 'woohoo!' from you all? Traditional summertime images include old friends catching up, swimsuits and beaches, career opportunities, family excursions, kids playing in sprinklers ... you know the scene.



Beta Mostafavi

The bottom line is that the summer is known for allowing many students the time to do things they didn't have a chance to do before. But not everyone accepts this homework-free time period; some choose to — get ready for this one — take summer classes.

Of course, many who choose to take the shortened courses don't intend to give up the summer excitement. They often still plan to maintain a summer job, hang out with friends and participate in every fun-filled weekend adventure they can. Unfortunately, this kind of wishful thinking can be completely shot down once students find that summer classes, which include longer hours, daily homework and intense testing schedules, will pretty much take over every day of the month. There won't be much time for the popular summer events. Before committing to the shortened courses, students should do some research and know exactly what they're getting into.

Taking summer classes is a great way to catch up with credits or to get some classes out of the way, but anyone thinking about registering for the four-week sessions shouldn't plan on devoting themselves to much else. Teachers who have taught summer courses are aware of some students' unrealistic goals to accomplish more than what is feasible during the summer season.

"It's really easy to get behind in a four-week summer course," said John Lukacs, an anthropology professor who has taught summer courses for more than 15 years. "The biggest problem is that people get into it with the attitude of, 'Oh it's just another class' and forget that the goal is to do three months in only four weeks. I've had students taking 18 credits and then not having time to do all their work. There are lots of people who see [summer school] as a way to finish up and consequently overload themselves and then become disappointed when they don't pass. It's incredible what people think they can do."

James Long, a chemistry instructor who has taught summer classes for more than 10 years, agrees that the intensity of classes doesn't allow students to take on too much work.

"(Students) can't treat summer school as a regular term," Long said. "For example, no one should take three courses. Students who try to take extra classes have trouble because that's too much information in too little time. My students probably spend two of the three days' break (between classes) studying."

Summer term is also not like spring, when students feel all right about the sunshine enticing them to stay outside and skip a few classes here and there. Usually a class absence every now and then isn't the

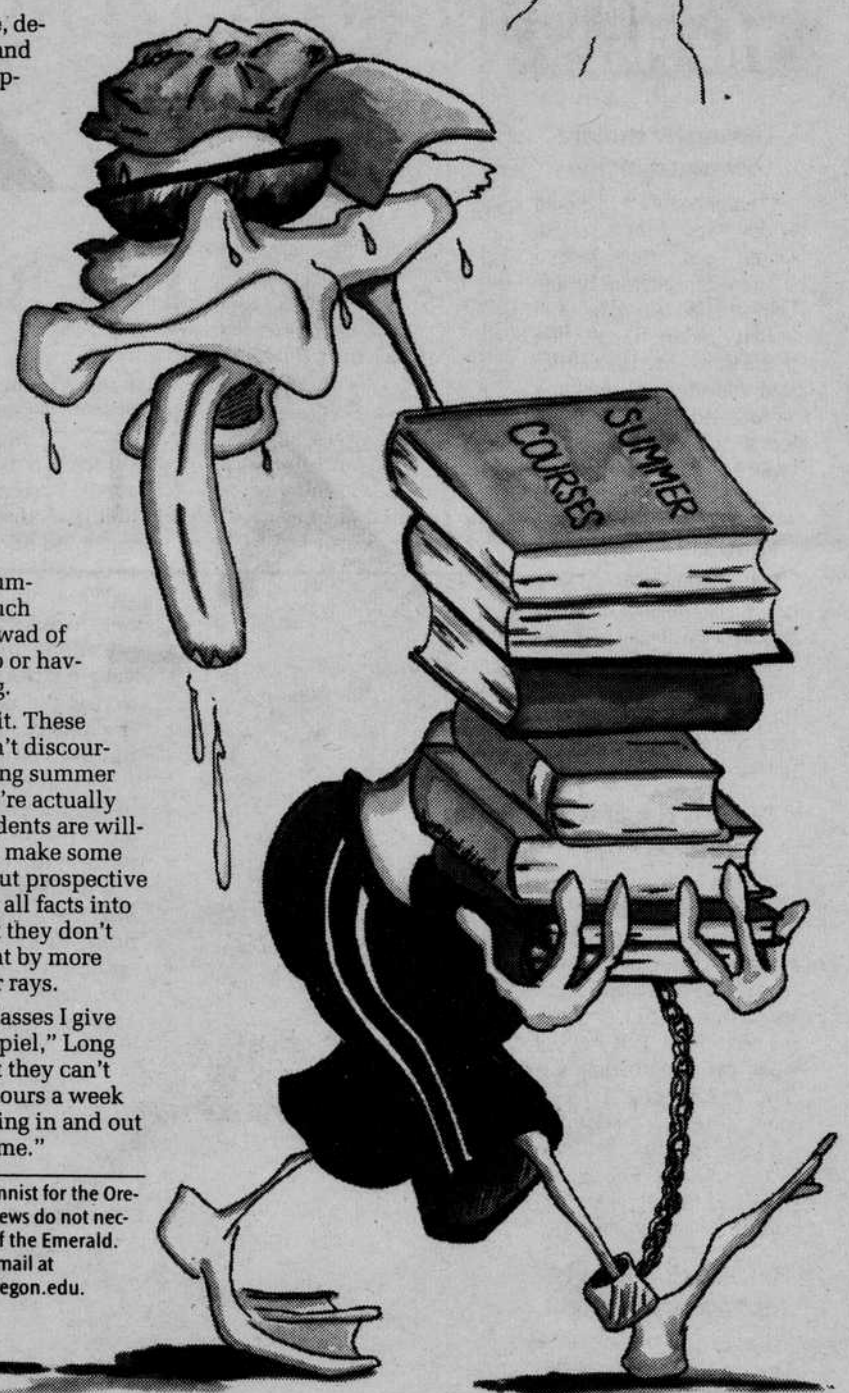
biggest deal in college, depending on the class and circumstance. But skipping one class period in summer is almost the equivalent of missing three days.

Courses do vary and there are sessions that run eight weeks or 11 weeks, but it's the four-week sessions that will get you. Because of the intensity, these summer classes need extra focus and attention. This can take away from some of the classic summer opportunities, such as making that extra wad of cash at a full-time job or having that summer fling.

So there you have it. These perspectives shouldn't discourage anyone from taking summer classes, because they're actually very beneficial if students are willing to work hard and make some summer sacrifices. But prospective students should take all facts into consideration so that they don't find themselves burnt by more than just the summer rays.

"The first day of classes I give my students a little spiel," Long said. "I tell them that they can't work more than 20 hours a week and also can't be falling in and out of love during this time."

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Bryan Dixon Emerald

### Letters to the editor

#### Making voices heard

In a society where one in three women will be raped in their lifetime, something must change. In a society where rape myths are still firmly believed, there is a need for education. In a society where every six minutes a woman is raped, there is a need for action.

Rape is any unwanted sexual intercourse. Rape is about power and violence. We must all educate ourselves about rape and sexual assault and then take action to

bring about change. For, in one way or another, sexual violence affects us all.

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month — 31 days in which we can focus our efforts on sexual assault education, prevention, awareness and activism. The Take Back the Night March takes place during this month.

The year 2000 is the 22nd Anniversary of the march, which has come to symbolize women protesting all forms of oppression but rape and sexual assault in particular. Take Back the Night is a time for women to walk through

the streets of Eugene; one night without fear, protest violence and making their voices heard.

Take Back the Night begins tonight at 7 p.m. at the EMU Amphitheater with a rally and then a march to the East Park Block at 8th and Oak streets, where there will be a Speak Out. To the women and men of Eugene, please come and share your voices.

**Heather Mitchell**  
women's studies, environmental science

#### Men can help

With Take Back the Night happening tonight, I wanted to ad-

dress the hard work of Men Against Sexism on campus. We are small but growing, and every time someone new gets involved the circle gets bigger.

Though perhaps misunderstood, MAS is working for change in society through mutual education and support and by getting involved directly with the Women's Center in planning Take Back the Night.

Take Back the Night is a great opportunity to learn more about physical and sexual violence and how violence affects both men and women. This event is for the com-

munity to get involved and raise awareness to help end sexual abuse and the silence that often goes with it. This issue affects us all.

I am a pro-active volunteer and feminist supporter. As a man, I urge other men to come to Take Back the Night, where there will be opportunities to hold discussions with other men, meet MAS members and march behind the women's march. Everyone, please come show your support for those who live around you and whose stories have not been heard.

**Jonathan Gudstadt**  
Men Against Sexism member