Bryn Loftness

Hiking 112

Instructor Jim Heaps

**Trail of the Serpent – September 6th**

I really wasn’t a huge fan of this trail, though it was good exercise. The whole hike was just a bunch of switchbacks. Switchbacks remind me of Norway and all the mountains there. My family took a trip to Norway my junior year of high school and it was incredible. We stayed in a town in the middle of nowhere, in a cabin rented out by a distant relative. There was no wifi and the cabin was on the literal side of the mountain so every time we had to drive up or down in the car it was pretty sketchy—lots of poorly maintain switchbacks.

Anyway, back to the hike. Even though the trek up was pretty repetitive, the top was pretty beautiful. I got some fantastic pictures, even ones including a lizard. We took a moment to reflect at an overlook. It was cool to see the valley from up above. You could see a long and winding road with cars passing. It was nice to wonder for a bit what each cars passengers were thinking, where they might be going, where they might be coming from. Sometimes that thought is overwhelming but in that moment it felt calming. That was something I’ll remember from this hike. The lizards on this hike, unlike the previous hike, were bright green and blue and yellow. It was awesome.

The whole hike we just chatted and got to know each other. It was only our second time really hanging out so it was a little awkward. We also brought another classmate into our little hiking group, so now we were a group of 4. I liked it though because it was my friend from Calculus and he hikes at a similar pace as me so I didn’t feel as embarrassed being a little slower. I can’t help that I prefer to take in the views at my own rate! I asked Justin why he hikes so fast and he told me its because he prefers to spend the maximum amount of time at the summit rather than the trek up. This is valid but definitely a different mindset than mine, I prefer the journey more.