

Course Description - Adventure Education

Description

Adventure Education is a central course in an integrated set of courses designed to prepare students for the leadership of outdoor pursuits programs. The purpose of this course is to examine and explore factors and variables that contribute to the growth and development of outdoor leaders participating in adventure education experiences, with an emphasis on developing skills and abilities that help students be more effective team leaders and group members.

This course is taught experientially, with students taking ownership of a part of the course's delivery. The course involves a lecture/discussion/lab series and an all-day, on-campus outing. Students gain hands-on experience leading an experiential activity.

Content includes: semantics and definitions; communication and feedback, leadership theory, group dynamics, history and philosophy, ethical issues, risk and accidents, and leading and debriefing experiential activities.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Instructor's consent

Course Objectives

The Outdoor Pursuits Program emphasizes safe and responsible participation in outdoor activities. Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Identify the components of experiential education and explain the experiential learning cycle. Define the terms adventure and adventure education, and distinguish between the two types of relationships common to adventure education experiences. (intrapersonal and interpersonal).
2. Describe how the following influence leadership: Leadership orientation, leadership style, situational variables, and group dynamics.
3. Describe the merits and challenges associated with co-leadership.
4. Deliver feedback effectively and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of feedback as a tool for growth and learning.
5. Describe the historical roots and impact of Outward Bound and NOLS on the evolution and development of the field of adventure education.
6. Identify the factors that contribute to the evaluation of hazards and risks, and the formation of accidents in outdoor activities.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the tools that an outdoor leader can utilize to resolve ethical issues.
8. Develop an activity plan outlining goals and objectives, parameters, safety concerns and troubleshooting strategies for the delivery and debriefing of an experiential activity.

9. Articulate his/her typical role/behavior pattern in a group of peers and how this role/pattern helps and/or hinders one's effectiveness as a group member.

Evaluative Criteria

	<u>CRITERION</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
A.	LEADERSHIP AND FACILITATION	30	
	- Activity plan 10 pts.		see note below regarding activity plans
	- delivery and debriefing on an activity - 15 pts.		
	- personal leadership assessment - 5pts.		see template in the packet
B.	ASSIGNMENTS.....	50	
	- journal Assignment - 30 pts.		see note below regarding this assign.
	- reading responses - 10 pts.		2 @ 5 pts. Each.
	- self assessment assignment - 10 pts.		
C.	FINAL EXAMINATION.....	20	

Each *activity plan* must follow the template in the course packet and must be submitted to the course instructors **immediately prior** to the delivery of the activity. **Make a copy of your activity plan to use as a guide.**

The *Journal Assignment* will be collected twice for review. See the course schedule for due dates.

Note: Lesson plans, journals, etc. turned in late will be subject to the following point reduction schedule:

- a) Submitted late, but on the same day - 25%;
- b) Submitted one day late - 50%
- c) Submitted two days late - 100%. Turn assignments in on time!

To be Considered for a Passing Grade a Student Must:

- a) miss no more than one classroom session;
- b) participate fully in the Saturday on-campus outing;
- c) deliver and debrief an experiential activity;
- d) complete the personal leadership assessment;
- e) pass the final examination with a score of 80% or better, and
- g) attain a cumulative score on the evaluative criteria of at least 70 of the 100 possible points.

NOTE: A final grade of C or better is necessary to meet the requirements of the OPP Leadership Training Program.

Grading Scale

A+= 100-98, A=97-94, A-= 93-92; B+= 91-90, B=89-86, B-= 85-84; C+= 83-82, C=81-79, C-= 78-77; D+=76-75, D=74-72, D-=71-70; F=<70

If your final score is between grading categories (e.g. 89-90,, etc.), the letter grade will be rounded up if the score is .5 and greater, and rounded down if it is less than .5.

Additional Information

1. The course readings and assorted documents are available either in hard copy (course packet available from the bookstore), or from the course website as pdf downloads.

WHAT I HEAR, I FORGET. WHAT I SEE, I REMEMBER. WHAT I DO, I KNOW!