

Date: March 2006

- I. Course Name: Principles & Techniques of Nature Interpretation
Course Prefix and Number: CON 260
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours
Catalog Description:

An in-depth investigation and practice of the fundamental principles and concepts of nature interpretation. Historical development, current trends, methods and field techniques in nature study, outdoor education, interpretive programming and facilities will be examined. Prerequisite CON 210 or permission of instructor

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

- To provide students with a historical background of nature interpretation
- To provide students with the fundamental principles and concepts of nature interpretation
- To provide students with basic techniques in nature study, outdoor education and interpretive programming.
- To provide students with basic techniques of trail development and nature center facility management

Relationship to Conservation Program Goals

The Nature Interpretation course does focus on development of appreciation of the natural world and to a lesser extent on critical environmental issues. Course content addresses transfer options and career opportunities directly and emphasizes the development of professional competencies.

Relationship to The Eleven Competencies

3 = strong emphasis 2 = moderate emphasis 1 = slight emphasis

Writing	3	Computer Literacy	2
Oral Communications	3	Information Resources	2
Reading	3	Citizenship	2
Problem Solving/Critical Thinking	3	Global Concerns	2
Ethics/Values	3	Mathematics	1
Professional Competency	3		

III. Methods of Instruction

- Types of course materials
 - Required Textbook
 - Journal Book
 - Recommended Texts

Methods of instruction

Discussion
Lecture
Field presentations
Journal writing
Audio-visual presentations

Assessment Measures

Oral presentations; dramatic poetry
Group project
Group presentations
Group discussions
Field study
Trail Brochure development
Interpretive display development

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance
Individual oral field presentations
Group interpretive project/field exercise/field presentation
Journal
Discussion

IV. Course Content

- ◆ Student autobiographical presentations
- ◆ What is interpretation
- ◆ Interpretation as a career
- ◆ Why is interpretation needed
- ◆ The clients; who receives interpretation
- ◆ Interpretive programs
- ◆ Performance or personal interpretation
- ◆ Non-personal interpretation
- ◆ Interpretive facilities
- ◆ Collections, field notes and journals
- ◆ Interpretive planning
- ◆ Case studies of interpretive facilities and programs