

Course Syllabus for Fall 2023

FEM 12

Tuesday August 8th through October 3rd, 2023 @ 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Additional Meetings (Labs)

LAB Field Trip to REI 6:00 - 9:00 TBD

SAT & SUN September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> (Overnight backpacking trip, Location TBD)

**Final Exam Tuesday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 in Room FEM 12**

**Instructor:** Travis Johnson  
Office: No office present on campus. Phone: (908) 652-1300  
Office Hours: Arrangements can be made by phone/email  
Email: [Travis.johnson@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:Travis.johnson@reedleycollege.edu)  
Phone: (908) 652-1300

**Textbook**

**Recommended:** The Backpacker's Field Manual: A Comprehensive Guide to Mastering Backcountry Skills. Rick Curtis. Three Rivers Press, New York, 2005

**Recommended:** Map Trails Illustrated Map from National Geographic. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks on one map #205. Very detailed & colorful. Waterproof Plastic Map; Tear Resistant. GPS data. Revised 2006. Available online (\$14.95) at REI.COM

**Description**

This course is designed to give students basic skills in backcountry travel. Topics covered will include route planning, equipment selection, multiple night travel, trail etiquette, food preparation, campsite selection, basic map reading and compass use, and backcountry safety. Students will gain basic knowledge and experience aimed at increasing their confidence in traveling in the backcountry. Experience will include wilderness management exercises such as campsite rehabilitation.

## **Outline**

Trip Planning  
Equipment  
Cooking and Nutrition  
Hygiene and Water Purification  
Leave No Trace Hiking and Camping  
Wilderness Travel  
Weather and Nature  
Safety and Emergency Care  
Outdoor Leadership

## **Required Equipment**

Students must supply their own backpacking equipment. Failure to have necessary equipment may result in being barred from field trips and will affect course grade. Students will bring all personal backpacking equipment to class for instructor inspection prior to field visits.

## **Advisories**

Basic Skills Advisories: Eligibility for English 125, 126, and Mathematics 101. (A, CSU)

## **Learning Outcomes**

Gain confidence in backcountry travel and navigation.  
Prepare food using a backpacking stove, water filter and dried food.  
Navigate trails in mountain terrain using a map and compass.  
Practice appropriate trail etiquette and “leave no trace” camping methods.  
Recognize potential backcountry hazards and minimize risks.

## **Learning Objectives**

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- Identify and select necessary equipment for backcountry travel.
- Use a map and compass to identify travel routes and current location.
- Set up and operate a backpacking stove to prepare meals.
- Identify “leave no trace” principles.
- Select appropriate equipment for specific conditions.

## **Reedley College Policies**

To receive a grade for this course, students must complete all assigned work. Cheating or plagiarism will result in removal from class and you will receive an “F”. Be courteous to everyone in class.

**Reedley College Policies (Cont.)**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Attendance and Grading Policy:**

If you miss a lecture, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate. The success of any class depends on the presence and active participation of each student; therefore, you are expected to attend every class. Your participation record will be considered when assigning your final grade. If you miss class >3 times during the semester (without a valid reason) you will be dropped from the course. Individual exam grades may be curved and final grades will be assigned based on a straight percentage system according to the following scale:

**Health Advisory:**

This course requires arduous physical exertion. Hiking and carrying backpacks and performing campsite restoration work at high altitude should not be attempted unless persons are healthy and in good physical condition. The instructor may require students to provide proof of fitness by medical professionals and may prohibit a student from participating in some class activities. Please advise instructor of any condition that could endanger your health prior to attempting the course or specific activities involved in class laboratory exercises.

<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Cumulative Percent</u>	<u>Breakdown of Grades Percent</u>	
A	90-100	Quizzes	10%
B	80-89	Final Exam	20%
C	70-79	Trip Preparation	30%
D	60-69	Trip Participation	40%
F	< 59		