**Forest Interpretation (50150)**

**NR-35, Spring 2023**

**Instructor:**

Kayla Jo Rodriguez

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**Office hours:**

Tuesday 9-10:50 AM, Thursday 1-1:50 PM, and Friday 1-1:50 PM, or by appointment

**Lectures and Labs:**

Tuesday’s 11-11:50 AM and -Wednesday’s 1-4:40 PM, Room: FEM 12

**Course Overview:**

Students will learn the theory and techniques of thematic environmental interpretation. Logical organization and composition of guided and self-guided media will be learned. Practical application through public presentation including narrated walks and campfire talks will be learned. Topics covered will include development of self-guided interpretive media including signs, brochures, and interpretive center displays. Field trips will be required for this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes &Objectives**

*The primary learning outcomes for this course are*:

* NR-35 SLO1: Construct and deliver dynamic and competent presentations that are adapted to natural resources settings and audiences
* NR-35 SLO2: Construct self-guided interpretive media with consideration of theme, organization, relevance, and attraction.
* NR-35 SLO3: Demonstrate public speaking using proper voice projection, diction, inflection, and conversational style.

*The primary objectives will be to:*

* Analyze audience attitudes and evaluate audience needs in a forest environment.
* Build self-confidence in visitor interpretation employment assignments.
* Develop a conversational “style” of delivery for campfire talks and guided walks.
* Enhance vocal skills (projection, diction, inflection, volume).
* Demonstrate an understanding of thematic natural resources interpretation
* Analyze other students’ natural resources interpretive media.

**Text and references:**

*Recommended:*

* + Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources: Grebner, Donald L., Bettinger, Pete, Siry, Jacek P., Boston, Kevin: 9780128190029: Amazon.com: Books
  + Handouts and supplemental reading made available on Canvas.

**Attendance**

You should attend every assigned class whether face-to-face or virtual- and be there on time. Arrival after roll is taken will be considered a tardy. Three tardies will count as one absence. *The success of this or any other course depends on the presence and active participation of each student****.*** It is the responsibility of the student to check on class meeting changes for the following week if a class session is missed. Contact the instructor in the event of an absence.

The responsibility to drop the course for any reason, including lack of attendance, lies with the student. Late work should be made up within one week.

**Cancelled Class Policy**

If classes must be cancelled the instructor will attempt to post the announcement on the course electronic media site (CANVAS). A notice will be posted on the door of the classroom. Be aware that schedule modifications and field trips may be announced in classes by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to be present during classes and pay attention to such announcements and to check announcements on CANVAS daily.

**Important Dates:**

**Jan 20** – Last day to drop full-term class for a full refund

**Jan 27** – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” in person

**Jan 29** – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” on Self Service

**March 10** – Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grade after this date)

**Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism &Cheating:**

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly obtained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences. Refer to the college catalog for further details surrounding actions that will be implemented regarding academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism is the adoption or reproduction of the ideas or words or statements of another person without due acknowledgment. Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating can take the form of the storing of information in graphing calculators, pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Therefore, no items of any kind may be on the desktop, including water bottles, during testing. Students may not wear hats/caps during testing. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course at the discretion of the instructor and depending upon the severity and frequency of the incidents.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g., 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. A formal counseling assessment to determine the appropriate accommodation is required before any accommodation(s) can be made. The counseling center facilitates the process.

**Student Required PPE for Field Trips:**

Each student must have the following items during each field trip or lab in order to be allowed to participate and earn credit for trip.

- Hardhat

- Leather Gloves

- Water

- Leather Boots (minimum 8” high uppers, nonskid soles preferably Vibram, no steel)

- Long Pants w/ Belt (no cuffs, NO HOLES)

- Long Sleeve Cotton Work Shirt (NO HOLES)

- Backpack sufficient to carry hardhat, gloves, safety glasses, water, and food

\*\*\* Details will be given during the first class meeting\*\*\*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Lecture Topic** | **Lab** | **Homework** |
| **1** | Jan. 10 | Course Introduction | Introduction Presentation | Bio's to present |
|  | Jan. 11 | Bios |  |  |
| **2** | Jan. 17 |  | Bio Presentation to the class |  |
|  | Jan. 18 | Bios |  |  |
| **3** | Jan. 24 |  | On-campus activities (Kings River) |  |
|  | Jan. 25 | Natural Resources Interpretation |  |  |
| **4** | Jan. 31 |  | **Giant Forest** | Field Trip Write-up |
|  | Feb. 1 | **FIELD TRIP** |  |  |
| **5** | Feb. 7 |  | On-campus activities | NPS Interp. Walk |
|  | Feb. 8 | "If I Was the Ranger" |  |  |
| **6** | Feb. 14 |  | NPS Interpretive walk |  |
|  | Feb. 15 | You are the Ranger now |  |  |
| **7** | Feb. 21 |  | **Museum of the Sierra (Shaver Lake)** | Field Trip Write-up |
|  | Feb. 22 | **FIELD TRIP** |  |  |
| **8** | Feb. 28 |  | Microsoft Publisher | Interpretive Brochure |
|  | March 1 | Fire History &Management |  |  |
| **9** | March 7 |  | Campfire talks | Campfire talk |
|  | March 8 | Interpretive Talks for Children |  |  |
| **10** | March 14 |  | Campfire presentation |  |
|  | March 15 | Campfire presentation |  |  |
| **11** | March 21 |  | **Cat Haven** | Field Trip Write-up |
|  | March 22 | **FIELD TRIP** |  |  |
| **12** | March 28 |  | Trailwork, KK/Choinumni |  |
|  | March 29 | Trailwork |  |  |
|  | April 4 | **No Classes** | **Spring Break** |  |
|  | April 5 |  |  |  |
| **13** | April 11 |  | **Hume Lake** | Ranger presentation |
|  | April 12 | **FIELD TRIP** |  |  |
| **14** | April 18 |  | "If I Was the Ranger" presentation |  |
|  | April 19 | "If I Was the Ranger" |  |  |
| **15** | April 25 |  | Open Lab |  |
|  | April 26 | Open Lab |  |  |
| **16** | May 2 |  | On-campus activities | NPS Interp. Walk |
|  | May 3 | "If I Was the Ranger" |  |  |
| **17** | May 9 | **Class Presentations** |  |  |
|  | May 10 |  |  |  |
| **18** | May 16 | **Finals Week. Exam time TBD** |  |  |
|  | May 17 |  |  |  |

**Course Schedule**

**Notes:**

1. ***This schedule is tentative***. Poor weather or conditions (i.e. high winds, water, and wildfire) may cause safety concerns and rescheduling to different days. Also, sometimes logistics for getting access to different sites will cause changes in the schedule.

2. Field labs require walking in sometimes rough terrain and being near water bodies.

Trails may have heavy brush. Weather may include high winds, rain, or snow on

some specific cases. Dress appropriately.

3. Attendance for field trips is required. If you cannot make it, you should by all means get field trip information because test materials are often given during labs and participation is graded.

**Student Evaluation:**

Students will need to spend many hours outside of class to review course materials in order to complete lab assignments and projects. All assignments and lab reports must be submitted one week after being assigned unless otherwise agreed upon. Late assignments and reports will receive a full grade-mark reduction per week and assignments more than 3 weeks late will be given a zero mark. Reasons other than bereavement or authenticated illness are normally not admissible justification for missing scheduled exams. Should a student miss an exam or field trip, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**This class is heavily weighted on your participation. You must attend the labs in order to participate.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation | 200 |
| Assignments | 400 |
| Lab Write Ups | 200 |
| Final Presentation | 200 |
| **Total** | 1000 |

**Grading Scale:**

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 0-599

***Please communicate with me if you will be late, absent, or have issues regarding class attendance. We can work something out- but only if you allow me to help you. Please meet me halfway this semester*. *If you have questions regarding grading, class content, or simply are having any trouble understanding something- please come talk to me. We are all here to learn and I am here to help! :)***