

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Recreation & Leisure Studies

RLST4840 - Environmental Interpretation for Recreation (03 Credits)
RLST 4000 – Special Problems in Recreation & Leisure Studies (01 Credit)

Term: Fall 2004
Instructor: Uttiyo Raychaudhuri
Email: uttiyo@uga.edu
Office: 335, Ramsey Center
Office hours: 03:30 – 04:15 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday (by appointment)
Office Phone: (706) 542 - 6551
Class hours: 02:15 - 03:30 P.M. Tuesday & Thursday (Room 225, Ramsey Center) and other weekend times as outlined at various sites.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Outdoor recreation and park resources provide a unique context for educating adults and children about environmental issues. This context is a natural resource setting where people have the motivation and time to invest in an environmental learning experience. The course will include philosophies, concepts, and practical techniques of Environmental Interpretation (EI). The course will also introduce students, through lectures and projects, to individuals and agencies involved in Environmental Interpretation. As a student in this course, you will learn the “methods, principles and philosophies of environmental interpretation in natural systems, with specific reference to natural resource recreation contexts. The roles of environmental education and persuasive communication in promoting environmental attitudes and behaviors will be emphasized.”

<http://www.bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/courses/descript/rlst.html>

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of EI in the context of outdoor recreation.
2. Understand the history, goals, and philosophy of EI.
3. Identify and apply EI techniques in outdoor recreation settings with a focus on verbal and non-verbal forms of communication.
4. Understand the principles of environmental education and outdoor education.
5. Evaluate the role of persuasive communication and environmental ethics in EI.
6. Identify agencies, practical implications and professional opportunities in EI.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Ham, S. (1992). *Environmental Interpretation*. Golden, CO: North American Press.
2. Tilden, F. (1977). *Interpreting our heritage*. Chapel-Hill, NC: Univ. North Carolina Press.
3. Regnier, K., Gross, M., and Zimmerman, R. (1992). *The Interpreter's Guidebook*. Stevens Point, WI: University of Wisconsin.
4. Trapp, S., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (1992). *Signs, Trails and Wayside Exhibits*. Stevens Point, WI: University of Wisconsin.

Other readings as assigned.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE INSTRUCTOR:

1. *ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS*: If you anticipate a need to miss class and wish to receive an excused absence, you must speak/email the instructor at least 24 hours in advance of the class. Absences in excess of 3 will result in a loss of 5% on your final average. Arrive on time to class. Late coming in excess of 5 minutes will be considered absence. Also leaving the class or trip before the scheduled end will be considered as an absence. It is assumed that you are in this program because you want to be; therefore it is expected that you will attend all classes and field trips, workshops and projects.
2. *DEADLINES*: All assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the date that they are due. Papers will not be accepted before that time. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per class till two classes and thereafter will not be accepted.
3. *EXAMS*: All students must attend exams. Those not present will receive a zero for that exam. Retakes will not be offered. Exceptions under special circumstances on producing documentary proof maybe granted.
4. *ASSIGNMENTS*: All assignments must be typed, double-spaced and stapled. It is advisable that you number each page and include the assignment name and your name on each page to reduce the possibility of confusion. Also it is advisable that you make an extra copy of the assignment for yourself. Also retain electronic copies of the assignment. APA 5th edition format is to be used on all scholarly work.
5. *ACADEMIC HONESTY*: Each student is expected to do her own work on all course assignments and exams. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will be subjected to undergo university rules and policy decisions in respect to academic dishonesty. It is expected that all work handed in will be original. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A culture of honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Each student is expected to do his or her own work for individual course assignments. Any student found plagiarizing a written assignment or falsifying a course requirement is referred for University disciplinary action.
6. *EVALUATION*: Students will participate in a midterm and an end-of-semester evaluation. In addition, students are encouraged to informally submit recommendations for course improvement on a continuing basis throughout the term.
7. *WEBCT*: This course and the course material are available online on WebCT. All students are expected to login to WebCT using their 'UGA myID' before each class and check updates to course information, announcements and course material. Online Quizzes and important announcements regarding the course will be posted on WebCT and regular login to WebCT is expected from the students.

EXAMS:

1. *MIDTERM EXAM*: It will cover all material presented in class by the instructor, guest lecturers and students and all material covered in the assigned readings prior to the exam.
2. *FINAL EXAM*: The final exam will cover all material presented in class by the instructor, guest lecturers and students after the midterm exam and prior to the final exam. It will not be comprehensive.
3. *QUIZ*: During regular classes short quizzes on course material and from the suggested readings will be administered. Dates for these will not be announced and they will be surprise tests.
4. *ASSIGNMENTS*: Regular assignments (essays / project reports / interpretations) will be given to students which must be completed and returned by the due date.

All exams will contain any or all of the following: discussion / essay questions, short answer items, objective questions, completion items, multiple choice items, matching items and true / false items.

Bonus points for participating in community projects like Greenway clean-up and Rivers Alive will be provided as an incentive to students. Grades / points and marks will be posted on WebCT or by email individually. Inform the instructor on the day of the exam if you do not want your grade posted.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you encounter a problem that affects your participation in this course, contact the instructor immediately. In addition, any student who needs an accommodation or other assistance in this course should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

WORKSHOP AT SANDY CREEK NATURE CENTER (SCNC):

This group project will involve applications of environmental interpretive techniques in a natural resource recreation setting. Students will work in groups.

DAUSET TRAILS / JARRELL PLANTATION FIELD TRIP:

Field trip is an integral part of the learning process and represents the practical application of principles taught in class. A day will be spent at Jarrell Plantation (cost is \$2.50 per student – cash due September 2, 2004) understanding Historic Interpretation and a day will be spent in Dauset Trails Nature Center assembling a self-guided interpretive trail. Students are expected to arrange for their own transportation to these sites.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE:

Project Learning Tree is an environmental conservation education program emphasizing awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural resources. Kris Irwin will coordinate PLT. Cost is \$ 20.00 per person (includes PLT textbook and certification). PLT costs in cash are due September 2, 2004.