

## DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & LEISURE STUDIES

### RLST4840 - Environmental Interpretation for Recreation

Term: Fall 2002  
Instructor: Uttiyo Raychaudhuri  
Email: [uttiyo@uga.edu](mailto:uttiyo@uga.edu)  
Office: 335, Ramsey Center  
Office hours: As posted (by appointment)  
Office Phone: (706) 542 - 6551  
Class hours: 02:00 - 03:15 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday

#### 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. Regnier, K., Gross, M., and Zimmerman, R. (1992). The Interpreter's Guidebook. Stevens Point, WI: University of Wisconsin.
3. Trapp, S., Gross, M. And Zimmerman, R. (1992). Signs, Trails and Wayside Exhibits. Stevens Point, WI: University of Wisconsin.
4. Tilden, F. (1977). Interpreting our heritage. Chapel-Hill, NC: Univ. North Carolina Press.

Other readings as assigned.

## STUDENT EVALUATION:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Quiz	10%
Workshop & Participation	10%
Project & Participation	10%
Field trip / Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

## COURSE GRADES:

A = 90% and above  
B = 80% - 89.9%  
C = 70% - 79.9%  
D = 60% - 69.9%  
F = 59.9% or below

## EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE INSTRUCTOR:

- ATTENDANCE:** If you anticipate a need to miss class and wish to receive an excused absence, you must speak to the instructor at least 24 hours in advance of the class. Absences in excess of 4 will result in a loss of 5% on your final average. Arrive on time to class. Late coming in excess of ten minutes will be considered 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments must be typed, double spaced and stapled. A cover page with the student's name, Social security no. and the Assignment title is expected. It is advisable that you number each page and include 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. APA format is to be used on all scholarly work.
- 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.

## EXAMS:

- MIDTERM EXAM:** It will cover all material presented in class by the instructor and students and all material covered in the assigned readings prior to the exam.
- FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will cover all material presented in class by the instructor and students after the midterm exam and prior to the final exam. It will not be comprehensive.
- QUIZ:** During regular classes short quiz's on course material and from the suggested readings will be taken. Dates for these will not be announced and they will be surprise tests.

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.

Grades / points and marks will be posted by the last four digits of your SSN 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 need accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment to see the instructor as soon as possible.

**WORKSHOP ( Sandy Creek Nature Center):**

This group project will involve applications of environmental interpretive techniques in a natural resource recreation setting. Students will work in groups of 2-3.

**SAVANNAH FIELD TRIP:**

Field trip is mandatory and represents the practical application of principles taught in class. Two days will be spent at Savannah, Fort McAllister and Skidway Island state park assembling a self guided interpretive trail.

**PROJECT LEARNING TREE:**

Project Learning Tree is an environmental conservation education program emphasizing awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural resources. Kris Irwin. Cost is \$ per person (includes PLT textbook and certification).

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:**

DATE	SUBJECT MATTER	READINGS
<b>AUGUST</b>		
20	Orientation & Course Overview	
22	Course Overview & Introduction to EI	Ham 1
27	Introduction to Interpretation	Tilden 1-7
29	History & Principles of Interpretation	RGZ 1
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
3	Interpretive Planning	Ham 2, RGZ 2
5	Signs & Exhibits	Ham 8, TGR 2, 3,4,5
10	Workshop Overview at SCNC	
12	Workshop at SCNC	
17	Workshop at SCNC	
19	Workshop Presentations	Ham 4, 10
24	Workshop presentations	
26	Children's Interpretation	Ham 7, RGZ 8
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
1	Environmental Interpretation	Ham 6, RGZ 5
3	Mid term exam	
8	Environmental education	Tilden 8-15
10	Project Learning Tree	
15	Project Learning Tree	
22	Project Learning Tree	
24	Project Presentation	
29	Outdoor education	Ham 11

NOVEMBER

12	Persuasive communication	
14	Self guided tours	Ham 9, RGZ 6, TGR 8
16	Field Trip to Savannah	
17	Field Trip to Savannah	
19	Project presentations	
21	Project Presentations	
26	Interpretive talks	Ham 3,5. RGZ 3

DECEMBER

3	Revisions & review of Course work	
5	Revisions & review of Course work	
13	Final Exam 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.	

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course: deviations announced to the class by the instructor maybe necessary.