Natural Resources 4611
“Environmental Interpretation and Visitor Services”
Autumn 2020
Course Syllabus

Course Meeting Times
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20 – 3:40 p.m.
Kottman Hall 333

Course Instructor
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Office: 384 Kottman Hall
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description
In this course, students will learn the principles of interpretation, the theory behind those principles, and the practical application of those principles in personal interpretive programs. Students will also learn the importance of using interpretation as a management tool which connects the audience with the resource, thus furthering the goals and objectives of an organization.

Course Goals
• To understand the principles of interpretation
• To understand the components of meaningful interpretation
• To hone the presentational skills required to conduct such interpretation

Course Objectives
• Students will be able to develop and deliver thematic interpretive presentations which form a bond between organization, audience, and resource using interpretive techniques
• Students will be able to demonstrate the management goals met by their interpretive programs
• Students will exhibit public speaking skills, both planned and improvisational
• Students will evaluate interpretive programs in an ongoing fashion with an eye toward constant improvement
• Students will view themselves as members of a body of professionals and hold themselves to those professional standards.

Course Readings

Various handouts may be provided. You will be responsible for understanding their content even if I do not cover them in class.
Attendance
Attendance and punctuality are required and expected. If you need to miss a class, please inform me in advance or have a written excuse for your absence from your doctor. If you miss a class, you are responsible for copying the notes from a fellow classmate and then seeing me if you have any questions. If you have an unexcused absence for a presentation or exam, your grade will be entered as a zero. Making up a presentation is quite difficult due to the schedule. It is not possible to make up a presentation after the last day scheduled for those presentations, so please consider this when signing up.

Class Format
Classes will be a combination of lectures, activities, and student presentations. Discussion and questions are welcome; you sit amongst a synergistic group of your peers. Remember; always have a passion for what you are learning!

Disability Accommodations
The Office for Disability Services will notify me of the need for accommodation of a registered disability. Additionally, it will be very helpful for you to discuss your accommodations with me in person. Even if you need an accommodation based on the impact of a non-registered or temporary disability, please inform me so that we can discuss the class format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations.

Notes:
- Writing and presentation skills ALWAYS count! Poor composition at your level of education is not appropriate.
- Rubrics – I DO NOT USE THEM. Once you graduate, which will happen soon for many of you, the working world will rarely use them either. It is good practice to get used to this. As an emerging professional, please strive to turn in your best work product; this is different than striving to do your best. Your work product earns its grade based upon a clear point by point grade sheet which I will always provide.
- Faculty rule 3335-5-54 will be followed in the case of academic misconduct. Do not cheat, do not plagiarize, and do not be foolish enough to think I will let these kinds of actions slide.

Assignments, Exams, and Values
- all presentations to be given to class as a whole
- total of 1,000 points

Due Thurs., Aug. 27: 3-minute Biography presentation: (25 pts.)
Prepare a three-minute interpretive presentation about your most important resource – yourself! Relate to us, reveal your passion for interpretation to us, provoke us to learn more about you in the future.

Tues., Sept. 1: Object Interpretation: (25 pts.)
Each student will be given an object and asked to perform a two-minute improvisational interpretive presentation about that object.
Thurs., Oct 1: **Outline for Interpretive Talk**: (75 pts.) in-class, typed submission.
Create the theme, goals and objectives, and outline for the Interpretive Talk.
*Re-do of Talk Outline due Oct. 13, if desired*

Due Tues., Oct. 6: **Exam**: (200 pts.)
An exam of short answer and essay type questions will be given, focusing on class notes and discussions, and any supplemental readings given to date. A review sheet will be provided.

Due Thurs., Oct. 15: **present a summary of Talk Intro, 3 subthemes, Conclusion**: (75 pts.)

Tues. and Thurs., Oct. 20, 22, 27, 29: **Interpretive Talk** presentation (175 pts.)
Prepare a 10 min. interpretive talk in which you use visual aids. These aids can be objects, models, illustrations, etc.; anything **not technology based** (i.e. NO Powerpoints). You may ask your fellow students to act as a specific kind of audience if you desire.

Due Tues., Nov. 3: **Outline for Interpretive Walk**: (75 pts.) in-class, typed submission
Create the theme, goals and objectives, and outline for the Interpretive Walk.

Tues. and Thurs., Nov. 10, 12, 17, 19:
**Interpretive Walk** presentation (175 pts.)
Prepare a 10 min. interpretive walk starting and ending outside Kottman Hall. Walks will be held snow or shine so be prepared for the weather. You may ask your fellow students to imagine things not actually seen around Kottman Hall if desired, but you must support these images creatively.

Due Tues., Dec. 1 (online): **Professional Goals** video (100 pts.)
Video a 5 min. interpretive presentation about your professional goals. This presentation should not be just about **where** you want to work, but include **how** you want to work. Please show us where you envision yourself as a professional in the field of interpretation.

Due Thurs. Dec. 3 (online): **Feedback on classmates’ Professional Goals videos** (75 pts.)
Course Schedule

Tues., Aug. 25:
Introduction – instructor and course
What is Interpretation?
Assignment: 3 min. Bios (Due Aug. 27)

Thurs., Aug. 27:
Due: 3 min. Bio presentations

Tues., Sept. 1:
Object Interpretation – in class, 2 min., improvisational

Thurs., Sept. 3:
Why is Interpretation Important?
Interpretation is Communication – principles and techniques we can use

Tues., Sept. 8:
Plan well - know your audience, resource, organization, and extras

Thurs., Sept. 10:
The Interpretive Talk

Tues., Sept 15:
Thematic Presentation

Thurs., Sept 17:
Guest Interpretive Talk

Tues., Sept 22:
Interpreting to Children

Thurs., Sept 24:
Campfire and Audiovisual Programs
Assignment: Outline, goals, and objectives for Interpretive Talk (Due Oct. 1)

Tues., Sept 29:
Review

Thurs., Oct. 1:
Due: Talk Outline - typed, printed, brought to class

Tues., Oct. 6:
Exam
Thurs., Oct. 8:
  The Interpretive WALK
  Talk outlines returned

Tues., Oct. 13:
  Review Interpretive Talks including goals and objectives, knowing your audience and resources, themes and subthemes, intro/body/conclusion, and INSPIRING rather than educating
  *Assignment:* Outline, goals, and objectives for Interpretive Walk
  *Due:* Re-do of Talk Outline, if desired

Thursday., Oct 15:
  *Due:* Present summary of Intro, 3 subthemes, Conclusion

Tues. and Thurs., Oct. 20, 22, 27, 29
  *Due:* Interpretive Talk presentations

Tues., Nov. 3.:
  Roving Interpretation
  *Due:* Walk Outline - typed, printed, brought to class

Tues. Nov. 5:
  Guest Interpretive Walk at a Metropark
  Walk outlines returned

Tues. and Thurs, Nov. 10, 12, 17, 19:
  *Due:* Interpretive Walk presentations

Tues., Nov. 24:
  Professional Development
  *Assignment:* 5 min. Professional Goals video (Due Dec. 1)

Tues., Dec. 1 (online only)
  *Due:* 5 min. Professional Goals presentation on video

Thurs., Dec 3 (online only)
  *Due:* Feedback on Professional Goal Videos

*Good luck on the rest of your semester!*