

Natural Resources 4611
“Environmental Interpretation and Visitor Services”
Spring 2018
Course Syllabus

Course Meeting Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:45 – 2:05 or 3:55 – 5:15 p.m.
Kottman Hall 333

Course Instructor

Susan M. Rasche
614-565-8568 (cell)
rasche.4@osu.edu
Office: 384 Kottman Hall
Office hours: T/R 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., and 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 Text

Ward, C. and A. Wilkinson (2006) *Conducting Meaningful Interpretation: A Field Guide for Success.*
Golden Colorado: Fulcrum Publishing.

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 the Student Health Center. 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.

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 be relied upon to notify me of the need for accommodation of a registered disability. 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:

- Outlines are due on the assigned date. Late outlines will be accepted at the next class meeting but will be devalued by 15 points.
- Extra Credit is worth 5 points and will be typed and submitted at the beginning of class. Your answer needs to be based on the assigned reading. No late submissions will be accepted except in the case of an excused absence.
- Writing skills ALWAYS count! Points will be taken off for poor composition and poor spelling. A spelling dictionary will be available during exams; please use it.
- Please make sure you cite and give credit for ALL material you use in your work, including that which is gathered from the internet.
- Faculty rule 3335-5-54 will be followed in the case of academic misconduct. Basically, don't cheat, don't plagiarize, and don't 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., Jan. 11: 2 minute *Biography* presentation: (50 pts.)

Prepare a two 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.

Due Thurs., Feb. 1: *Outline for Interpretive Talk*: (75 pts.)

Create the theme, goals and objectives, and outline for the Interpretive Talk.
Re-do of Talk Outline due Feb. 8, if desired

Tues., Feb. 6: *Object Interpretation*: (50 pts.)

Each student will be given an object and asked to perform a two minute improvisational interpretive presentation about that object.

Thurs., Feb. 15: *Test*: (75 pts)

All things relating to Interpretive Talks

Tues. and Thurs., Feb. 20, 22, 27 Mar. 1: *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**. You may ask your fellow students to act as a specific kind of audience if you desire.

Due Tues., Mar. 6:

Outline for Interpretive Walk: (75 pts.)

Create the theme, goals and objectives, and outline for the Interpretive Walk.

Thurs., Mar. 8: *Exam*: (125 pts.)

An exam of short answer and essay type questions will be given, covering class discussions, Chapters 1-11, and any supplemental readings given to date.

Tues. and Thurs., Mar. 27, 29, Ap. 3, and 5:

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.

Thurs., Ap. 12: *Exam* (125 pts.)

An exam of short answer and essay type questions will be given, covering class discussions, Chapters 1-11, and any supplemental readings given to date.

Tues. and Thurs., Ap. 17 and 19: *Professional Goals* presentation (75 pts.)

Prepare 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.

Course Schedule

Tues., Jan. 9:

Introduction – instructor, course, textbook
 What is Interpretation? (Ch 1)
Assignment: 2 min. Bios (Due Jan. 11)

Thurs., Jan. 11:

Extra Credit: p. 13, q. 4
Due: 2 min. Bio presentations

Tues., Jan. 16:

Extra Credit: p. 48, q. 3
 Why is Interpretation Important? (Ch 2)
 Communication – principles, techniques (Ch 3)

Thurs., Jan 18:

Extra Credit: p. 67, q. 2
 Plan for Success – know your audience, resource, organization (Ch 4)
 Extras and Essentials (Ch 11)

Tues., Jan. 23:

Extra Credit: p. 82, q. 2 (on you own)
 Programming – thematic presentation (Ch 5)

Thurs., Jan 25:

Extra Credit: p. 109, q. 3
 The Interpretive Talk (Ch 6)
 The Campfire Program (Ch 8)
Assignment: Outline, goals, and objectives for Interpretive Talk (Due Feb. 1)

Tues., Jan. 30:

Extra Credit: p. 192, q. 6
 Guest Interpretive Talk

Thurs., Feb. 1:

Theater Workshop
Due: Outline for Interpretive Talk

Tues., Feb. 6:

Extra Credit: p. 146, q. 4
Object Interpretation – 2 min., improvisational

Thurs., Feb. 8:

Extra Credit: p. 165, q. 5
 Interpreting to Children (Ch 9)
Due: Re-do of Talk Outline, if desired

Tues., Feb. 13:

Extra Credit: p. 127, q. 4
 The Interpretive Walk (Ch 7)
Assignment: Outline, goals, and objectives for Interpretive Walk (Due Mar. 6)

Thurs., Feb. 15:

Test: All things relating to Interpretive Talks
Roving Interpretation (Ch 10)

Tues. and Thurs., Feb. 20, 22, 27, Mar. 1

Due: Interpretive Talk presentations

Tues., Mar. 6:

Review Chapters 1 – 11 for midterm
Workshop Interpretive Walk outlines in class

Due: Outline for Interpretive Walk

Thurs., Mar. 8

Exam (Ch. 1 - 11)

NO CLASS: Mar. 13, 15 Spring Break

Tues. Mar. 20:

Extra Credit: p. 176, q. 5

Guest Interpretive Walk **at a Metropark**

Thurs., Mar. 22:

Extra Credit: p. 27, q. 4

Review walk vs. talk

Tues. and Thurs, Mar. 27, Mar. 20, Ap. 3, and 5

Due: Interpretive Walk presentations

Tues., Ap. 10

Extra Credit: p. 250, q. 2

Professional Development (Ch 14)

Assignment: 5 min. Professional Goals (Due Ap. 17 and 19)

Thurs., Ap. 12

Exam

Tues. and Thurs., Ap. 17 and 19

Due: 5 min. Professional Goals presentation

Have a great summer, and remember: it is the teacher who learns!