

Natural Resources 4611
“Environmental Interpretation and Visitor Services”
Fall 2023
Course Syllabus

Course Meeting Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20-3:40 p.m.
Kottman Hall 333

Course Instructor

Jill Snyder
614-306-6420 (cell)
snyder@metroparks.net
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 in-person 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 in-person 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

If you need to miss a class, please try to inform me in advance. You must TEXT me if this absence is for THAT DAY. If possible, you may be able to attend the other session. If you miss a class, please FIRST check Carmen and the syllabus and then contact me if you have any questions. Please do not ask me if you missed anything – the answer is “Yes”. I suggest you speak with a fellow student for additional information and plan to pick up any handouts upon your return. 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, including a COVID absence, please inform me so that we can discuss the class format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations.

***Please note, this is subject to change with advance notice. Any changes will be posted on Carmen and an announcement sent out.*

Assignments, Exams, and Values

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

Due Thurs., Aug 24: **ONLINE Discussion Post:** (5 pts.)

What do you think of when you think interpretation?

Due Tues., Aug 29: **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 Tues., Sept 19: **Outline for Interpretive Walk:** (75 pts.)

Re-do of Walk Outline due Sept 28, if desired

Thurs., Sept 28: **Test 1:** (125 pts) MC, short answer, essay covering CH 1-5, 7, 9, 11

Tues., Sept 26: **Walk Summary:** (75 pts.) Brief intro, 2 subthemes, brief conclusion.

Tues. and Thurs., Oct 3 and 5: **Interpretive Walk** presentation: (175 pts.)

Prepare a 10 min. interpretive walk starting and ending outside Kottman Hall. Walks will be held rain or shine so be prepared for the weather. Plan to ask your fellow students to imagine things not actually seen around Kottman Hall and then support these images creatively.

Due Tues., Oct 24: **Outline for Interpretive Talk:** (75 pts.)

Tues. and Thurs., Oct 31 and Nov 2: **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 (no PowerPoints, please)**. Plan to ask your fellow students to act as a specific kind of audience **other than** SENR students.

Thurs., Nov 16: **Object Interpretation:** (50 pts.)

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

Tues. Nov 28: **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 might envision interpretation coming in to play.

Tues., Dec 5: **Test 2:** (120 pts.) You cannot study for it; be *present* all semester.

Course Schedule

Tues., Aug 22:

Introduction – instructor, course, textbook

Assignment: Discussion post *What do you think of when you think of interpretation?* (Due Aug 24)

Thurs., Aug 24:

What is Interpretation? (Ch 1)

Assignment: 2 min. Bios (Due Aug 29)

Due before class: Discussion post

Tues., Aug 29:

Due: 2 min. Bio presentations

Thurs., Aug 31:

Why is Interpretation Important? (Ch 2)

Communication – principles, techniques (Ch 3)

Tues., Sept 5:

Plan for Success – know your audience, resource, organization (Ch 4)

Extras and Essentials (Ch 11)

Thurs., Sept 7:

Programming – thematic presentation (Ch 5)

Tues., Sept 12:

The Interpretive Walk (Ch 7)

Assignment: Outline for Interpretive Walk (Due Sept 19)

Assignment: Interpretive Walk (Due Oct 3 & 5)

Thurs., Sept 14

Interpreting to Children (Ch 9)

Interpretive Walk Sign Ups

Tues., Sept 19

Literature for Interpretation

Due: Outline for Interpretive Walk

Thurs., Sept 21

Guest Interpretive Walk – at Highbanks Metro Park

Walk outline Feedback

Tues., Sept 26:

Walk and Test Review

Due: Walk Summary

Thurs., Sept 28:

Test 1: Ch. 1-5, 7, 9, 11

Due: Walk outline re-do if desired

Tues. and Thurs, Oct 3 & Oct 5:

Due: Interpretive Walk presentations

Tues., Oct 10:

The Interpretive Talk (Ch 6)

Thurs., Oct 12:

No Class- fall semester break

Tues., Oct 17:

The Campfire Program (Ch 8)

Workshop Talk Outlines

Assignment: Outline, goals, and objectives for Interpretive Talk (Due Oct 19)

Thurs., Oct 19:

Guest Interpretive Talk

CIG & NAI

Tues., Oct 24:

Guest Interpretive Talk

Due: Outline for Interpretive Talk

Thurs., Oct 26:

Talk summary & review

Talk outline feedback

Tues. and Thurs., Oct 31 & Nov 2:

Due: Interpretive Talk presentations

Tues. and Thurs., Nov 7 & 9:

No class- NAI Conference in Little Rock Arkansas

Tues., Nov 14

Roving Interpretation (Ch 10)

Professionalism (Ch 14)

Assignment: 5 min. Professional Goals (Due Nov 28)

Thurs., Nov 16

Object Interpretation

Tues., Nov 21

Application Workshop

Thurs., Nov 23

No Class

Tues., Nov 28:

Due: 5 min. Professional Goals presentation

Thurs., Nov 30:

Using Social Media for Interpretation

Test Review

Tues., Dec 5:

Test 2 – you cannot study for it; be *present* all semester

No more classes; no final Exam

Have a great winter break or graduation, and remember: it is the teacher who learns!