

Bemidji State University

ENVR 2150: Wilderness Ethics: Projects for Environmental Field Programs

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 1,2,3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Major schools of thought on the meaning of wilderness, its importance to modern society, and implications for responsible citizenship. Notions of wilderness and wilderness ethics advanced by major authors, past and present. Wilderness policy in the United States and recommendations for revisions to the Wilderness Act. Relation of sustainability to wilderness protection and the benefits provided to society. Experiential learning by visiting key areas that meet certain criteria for wilderness and relation of these experiences to personal values, including ethical behavior in "wilderness" settings. Liberal Education Goal Area 9.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 12/05/2001 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Pre-trip research on wilderness concepts through readings and values clarification exercises
2. Summarize key readings on the meaning of wilderness
3. Integrate major themes of readings such as: where humans are visitors, minimal impact, ¿leave no trace¿ and the lack of mechanized devices and other human artifacts
4. Distinguish arguments in readings about wildlands versus wilderness
5. Relate readings to indigenous views such as (1) nature as a way of life versus dominant culture¿s pursuit of recreation and (2) a sense of place in nature as ¿home¿ rather than ¿wilderness.¿
6. Assess the importance of wilderness to a healthy society.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. investigate issues critical to the preservation of ecosystems
2. learn methods for assessing habitats and threats to aquatic or marine environments
3. survey the role of the environment/wilderness in regional thought and culture
4. study the habitats and ecological needs of wild species that are endangered or vulnerable
5. conduct field evaluation of natural resource management planning options
6. gain field experience in observation, data collection techniques, identification, sampling, classification, and the organization of data
7. experience cultural sites in a sensitive manner
8. understand the unique human history in the Hawaiian Islands (Northern MN & BW CA)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted