# Course Outline Form: Fall 2015

## General Information

**Course Title:** ENVS\*3000 Nature Interpretation

**Course Description:**

An exploration of communication and experiential learning theories and their application to natural history interpretation and environmental education program design. Students will develop interpretive materials and identify a group to be the participants in an interpretive walk.

**Credit Weight:**

0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):**

School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:**

**Semester Offering:**

Fall 2015

**Class Schedule and Location:**

Lectures:

Monday, Wednesday

09:30AM - 10:20AM

Alexander Hall, Room 028

Labs:

Tuesday

02:30PM - 05:20PM

Alexander Hall, Room 309

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Professor Alan Watson

Instructor Email: awatson@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Alexander Hall Room 333. To set up an appointment contact me during the lecture or lab. You can also email me.

## GTA Information

GTA Name: TBA

GTA Email: TBA

GTA office location and office hours: TBA

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Introduce interpretive theory
2. Introduce the theory of the experiential learning cycle
3. Reinforce the principles of effective communication
4. Reinforce the role of nature interpretation in conservation
5. Reinforce the need for on-going assessment of interpretive activities
6. Master the ability to create interpretive media including writing and electronic media
7. Master the practice of program planning
8. Master the skill of leading an interpretive walk

### Lecture Content:

Date Topic

Week 1 Definitions

Week 2 Learning Styles

Week 3 Communication I

Week 4 Communication II

Week 5 Interpretive Planning I

Week 6 Interpretive Planning II

Week 7 Critical Thinking

Week 8 Values and Interpretation

Week 9 Interpretive Writing

Week 10 Sustainable Tourism

Week 11 Interpretation's Role in Environmental Sustainability I

Week 12 Interpretation's Role in Environmental Sustainability II

### Labs:

Date Topic

Week 1 Interpretation Fundamentals

Week 2 Trail Guides

Week 3 Interpreting Non-urban Environments

Week 4 Site Visit: MacDonald Stewart Art Centre

Week 5 Planning, Presentation and Evaluation I

Week 6 Planning, Presentation and Evaluation II

Week 7 Interpretive Writing

Week 8 Interpretive Presentations

### Seminars:

### Course Assignments and Tests:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| Interpretive Trail Guide | **Oct 9**  (Week 4) | 20% | 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Information re: Interpretive Walk | **Oct 16**  (Week 5) |  |  |
| Mid-term | **Oct 28**  (Week 7) | 20% | 1, 2 & 3 |
| Interpretive Walk Plan | **Nov 6**  (Week 8) | 15% | 4, 5 & 7 |
| Interpretive Walk | **Nov 23 - Nov 27**  (Week 11) | (25% based upon Self Assessment) | 3, 4 , 5 6, 7 & 8 |
| Interpretive Writing / Interpretive Video | **Nov 20**  (Week 10) | 20% | 4 & 6 |
| Self Assessment  (Take Home Final Examination) | **Dec 11**  (Final Exam Period) | 25% | 3, 4 , 5 6, 7 & 8 |

Additional Notes (if required):

### Final examination date and time:

### Final exam weighting:

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

Hay Group (2007). *Kolb Learning Style Inventory Version 3.2*

Maloof, Joan (2005). *Teaching the trees: lessons from the forest.* Athens Georgia, University of Georgia Press. ISBN 0-8203-2743-3

Michael Gross, Zimmerman, R. and Bucholz J. *Signs, trails and wayside exhibits.* UW-SP Foundation Press. ISBN 0-932310-47-8.

Regnier K., Gross, M. and Zimmerman, R. *The Interpreter's Guidebook*. UW-SP Foundation Press. ISBN 0-932310-17-6.

### Recommended Texts:

### Lab Manual:

### Other Resources:

### Field Trips:

### Additional Costs:

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

**Extensions Policy:**

Any request for an extension must be e-mailed to awatson@uoguelph.ca **before** the assignment due date. Your e-mail request for an extension must have your completed work to date for the assignment attached. No extension will be granted if you have not completed what I consider to be a reasonable amount of work on the assignment.

**Policy on Late Assignments:**

Any assignment submitted after the due date will be considered late and there will be grade reductions based upon the following schedule:

1st day late: 20% mark reduction.  
2nd day late: an additional 15% mark reduction.  
3rd day late: an additional 10% mark reduction.  
4th day late: an additional 5% mark reduction

For each day after 4 days late there is an additional 5% mark reduction.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

Group work is not allowed for any of the graded activities.

### Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

## University Policies

### Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml).

### Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

### Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website (http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

### Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/) **for more information.**

### Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/).

## Additional Course Information