

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



Sault College

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Wilderness Survival Skills

CODE NO. : NRT225 **SEMESTER:** 09W

PROGRAM: Adventure Recreation and Parks Technician and Field Naturalist Certificate

AUTHOR: Jerry A. Zuchlinski, M.Sc.

DATE: Nov 2008 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** May 2007

APPROVED:

“B. Punch”

DATE

CHAIR

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S): NONE

HOURS/WEEK: 4 hrs/week X 16 weeks

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For additional information, please contact Brian Punch, Chair,
Natural Environment/Outdoor Studies & Technology Programs
(705) 759-2554, Ext. 2681

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course has an emphasis on leading clients on overnight wilderness trips. Students will learn the important necessary “soft skills” required to professionally conduct extended backcountry tours for guiding in the adventure travel industry. Topics may include: client expectations and professionalism, specialized training and professional development (hard skills), trip planning and preparation, outdoor clothing and gear selection, outdoor cooking and nutrition, leave no trace camping, wilderness safety, liability and risk management, wilderness survival, outdoor leadership, and wilderness communication. Case examples of high profile adventure travel companies may be explored. Course exam will involve a 2-day winter camping trip to allow students to demonstrate applied theory covered throughout the semester. Course material is based on the National Occupational Standards for Outdoor Adventure Guides set by the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Discuss the importance of professionalism in the guiding industryPotential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe the impact of a positive attitude on clients and their overall business
- Explain the technical training and/or additional credentials (“hard skills”) required by professional outdoor associations
- Describe examples of good guest relations and quality customer service
- Explain common guest expectations, needs, and limitations, and how to fulfill them

2. Plan and prepare a 7 day wilderness trip.Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Determine a route complete with contingency plans and emergency exit points
- Prepare supplies and equipment for trip
- Determine logistics for setting up, maintaining and breaking camp
- Hold pre and post trip meetings with employer (Sault College) and clients (classmates)
- Organize personal equipment and clients gear in preparation for trip

3. Develop a checklist of important clothing and equipment needed for conducting wilderness tours

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Understand the difference between “low tech” vs “high tech” equipment, and the pros and cons of each
- Describe and demonstrate the importance of layering, and use of quality fabrics for outdoor clothing
- Explain and list a variety of well-known manufacturers of quality outdoor equipment, such as: backpacks, tents, stoves, clothing, sleeping bags, water filters, and other necessary items

4. **Develop a 7-day menu plan complete with costs and recipes.**Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Explain energy and nutritional requirements for outdoor menu planning
- Display sensitivity to special dietary considerations, and adaptability to client needs
- Use a variety of outdoor cooking equipment such as one-burner stoves and outback ovens
- Demonstrate proper hygiene for self and during meal preparation
- Understand the importance of proper water purification methods, and utilize them accordingly

5. **Develop a plan for minimum impact camping in sensitive wilderness environments.**Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Understand and demonstrate proper minimum impact firemaking techniques
- Explain proper protocol for dealing with human waste
- Describe methods of campsite selection, and reducing ones impact on the environment
- Describe how to plan ahead, prepare well, and prevent problems before they occur

6. **Develop a safety and risk management plan for conducting wilderness tours.**Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Explain how common accidents occur on extended wilderness trips and inherent risks
- Create an emergency evacuation plan complete with phone numbers and locations of nearest medical facilities

7. **Describe and practice skills of wilderness survival.**Potential Elements of the Performance:

<insert course name here>

<insert course code number here>

- Explain the importance of remaining calm and stationary in a wilderness emergency
- Describe the various types of shelters that can be built from natural materials, and the pros and cons of each
- Explain various methods of water collection, and their importance to wilderness survival
- Demonstrate a variety of fire-building techniques using natural and man-made materials
- Describe at least five methods of land-to-air signaling techniques used for acquiring assistance
- Taste and describe a number of different edible trees and plants useful for sustaining ones energy
- Practice various camp skills including knots, lashing, tool making, snaring, use of natural materials and construction of shelters

III. TOPICS:

1. Client Expectations and Professionalism
2. Trip Planning and Preparation
3. Outdoor Clothing and Equipment Selection
4. Outdoor Cooking and Nutrition
5. Wilderness Safety
6. Wilderness Survival
7. Outdoor Leadership

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Winter camping equipment and snowshoes

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	3.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00

<insert course name here>

<insert course code number here>

C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00

CR (Credit) Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.

S Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.

U Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.

X A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.

NR Grade not reported to Registrar's office.

W Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Disability Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

<insert course name here>

<insert course code number here>

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Code of Conduct*. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

<include any other special notes appropriate to your course>

<include the following paragraph if there is a placement or clinical component to this course. You may wish to consult with your chair.>

Tuition Default

Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of November will be removed from placement and clinical activities. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

<insert course name here>

<insert course code number here>

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit Form from the program coordinator (for course-specific courses), or the course coordinator (for general education courses), or the program's academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.