



COURSE OUTLINE: NRT212 - PARK INTERPRETATION

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Approved: Bob Chapman - Dean

Course Code: Title	NRT212: PARK INTERPRETATION
Program Number: Name	5212: ADVENTURE RECREATION
Department:	NATURAL RESOURCES PRG
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This hands-on course provides students with the skills and knowledge to work as heritage interpreters at national, provincial and municipal parks, and as interpretive guides in the ecotourism industry. Course material highlights the integral role of heritage interpretation in park management and developing environmental awareness. Effective planning and oral communication skills are stressed as students complete practical assignments in personal and non-personal interpretation. Students are encouraged to explore traditional and emerging techniques in interpretation for various audiences, including children, adults and new Canadians. Evaluation is based on the delivery of short interpretive programs in class and in the field and in the development of a multi-media interpretive eco-guide for outdoor adventurers. This course will be delivered through a combination of in-class lectures, guest lectures and workshops in the field.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:	<p>5212 - ADVENTURE RECREATION</p> <p>VLO 1 Demonstrate clear, concise and industry appropriate written, spoken and visual communication skills.</p> <p>VLO 4 Identify and evaluate the requirements for leading and participating in expeditions or field exercises using a variety of Adventure Recreation activities.</p> <p>VLO 6 Demonstrate a sound understanding of the significance of the Adventure Recreation and Parks Industry including relevant legislation, trends and issues.</p> <p>VLO 8 Demonstrate an understanding of sustainable development and apply the foundations in the natural environment.</p> <p>VLO 9 Safely operate and maintain equipment used in Adventure Recreation and Park operations.</p> <p>VLO 11 Analyze, evaluate and apply subjective and objective safety considerations for Adventure Recreation and Parks activities.</p>
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	<p>EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.</p> <p>EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective</p>



- communication.
- EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
 - EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
 - EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
 - EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
 - EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
 - EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

Course Evaluation:

Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:

Academic success is directly linked to attendance. Missing more than 1/3 of class hours in a semester shall result in an F grade for the course.

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Discuss the meaning of the term park interpretation and the role of interpretation in park settings.	1.1 Define heritage interpretation. 1.2 Describe how interpretation works in the field. 1.3 Explain the challenges and benefits of environmental education. 1.4 Understand the relationship between interpretation and environmental awareness in a historical and contemporary context.
Course Outcome 2	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2
2. Understand and apply various methods of natural heritage interpretation for different audience types, including children, adults and new Canadians.	2.1 Analyze Freeman Tilden’s six principles of interpretation. 2.2 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of personal vs. impersonal interpretation. 2.3 Assess and critique examples of impersonal interpretation. 2.4 Explain the relevance of identifying the audience (i.e., age, culture) in developing interpretive materials.
Course Outcome 3	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3
3. Plan and deliver effective interpretive presentations, including oral communication, written material and other media.	3.1 Identify and address the needs of the audience. 3.2 Write a clear, concise theme statement. 3.3 Research the theme and structure oral and written presentations. 3.4 Demonstrate appropriate level of enthusiasm. 3.5 Deliver the presentation in a clear, confident, professional manner.
Course Outcome 4	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4
4. Demonstrate clear, concise and appropriate written, spoken and visual communication skills in preparing and delivering	4.1 Synthesize and explain information and concepts using oral, written and visual means. 4.2 Tailor communication to the audience. 4.3 Spontaneously introduce and explain natural and cultural concepts as they arise while leading a guided tour.



	lessons in natural or cultural history.	4.4 Respond to participants' questions in a knowledgeable and effective manner.
	Course Outcome 5	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5
	5. Research, design and prepare a multi-media eco-guide for self-guided adventure travelers or ecotourists at a specific natural or historic site.	5.1 Choose an appropriate theme and supporting topics. 5.2 Storyboard an effective and creative final product for a mature (i.e. adult) audience. 5.3 Use text, graphics and charts to create an effective product that engages the audience and encourages a heightened sense of awareness (environmental, historical, etc.).

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Eco-guide	20%
Eco-guide plan	10%
Field Camp Interpretive Opportunities	10%
Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Spot Interpretation in the Field	20%
Test	10%
Trail sign	10%

Date: August 20, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.