

SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO



COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Field Investigative Techniques

CODE NO. : NRT 302

SEMESTER: 5

PROGRAM: Natural Environment Technologist

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DATE: Aug. 2012

**PREVIOUS OUTLINE
DATED:**

Sept. 2011

APPROVED:

'Brian Punch'

Aug. 2012

TOTAL CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITE(S): Nil

HOURS/WEEK: 4

CHAIR

DATE

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***For additional information, please contact Brian Punch, Chair, Environment and Design
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Each student will be required to participate in one or more field placements during the fall semester. Each placement will consist of a minimum of 50 hours in a supervised applied natural resource work environment where the student will play an active role. Progress will be monitored by a staff mentor and interim and final reports may be required. Both the placement supervisor and the staff mentor will participate in student evaluation. It is anticipated that many of these placements will involve work under our Memoranda of Understanding and other partnerships established in natural resources.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

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

1. Prepare and have completed a contract between the student, supervisor and faculty advisor for the field placement prior to starting work.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Describe details of the work to be performed
- Identify location of work, equipment needed and to be used
- Agree on a schedule for the work to be performed
- Prepare a simple contract for signature by the student, supervisor and faculty advisor: contract is to also include a statement that the supervisor agrees to evaluate the work of the student at the end of the placement
- Provide signed and dated contract to faculty supervisor prior to starting work

This learning outcome will constitute 5% of the course's grade.

2. Successfully integrate into and perform an appropriate natural resources job function in an operational work setting.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Accept a prearranged placement, make contact with the supervisor, arrange for a start date and time and arrive to begin work.
- Accept and perform a work function as assigned, for a

minimum of 50 total hours, with schedule and other details to be worked out with the supervisor

- Communicate with course faculty member via e-mail on progress and any problems encountered in completing the placement work
- Communicate regularly with supervisor on work schedule and work being done
- Demonstrate appropriate work ethic and skill level to supervisor and co-workers
- Keep a daily handwritten log of hours worked, work performed, skills needed and/or learned, equipment used, person(s) with whom worked, and any interpersonal difficulties encountered
- Keep a visual record of events/work/equipment/activities during the placement using a camera
- Gather any other information/materials/resources that will assist in making an oral presentation of your work experience
- Use the opportunity for networking to advantage in preparing for future job prospects
- Discuss and learn from the supervisor's performance evaluation at the end of the work term.

This learning outcome will constitute 75% of the course's grade.

3. Deliver an oral presentation on your field work experience.

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Using suitable visual aids, deliver a 10 minute presentation to classmates detailing work performed, equipment used, skills used, new skills learned, lessons learned and any other experiences of interest to classmates
- Participate in discussion with classmates after each presentation on problems that remained unsolved

This learning outcome will constitute 20% of the course's grade.

III. TOPICS:

1. Contract for the field placement.
2. Work in an operational natural resources setting.
3. Oral presentation of work experience

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Students may be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs during the field placement unless the MOU partner has agreed to cover these. Acceptable placement locations will be worked out with the student prior to setting up the placement. Please keep this in mind before selecting a placement where travel will be involved. In most out-of-town placements, students will need their own transportation to and from the job.

Depending on the job duties, students may need personal safety equipment such as steel-toed boots.

Students are reminded that work related to their interest area(s) will be sought on their behalf. However, it is not always possible to place all students in their preferred situation and further discussion may be necessary to find a suitable alternative. In situations where several students want to do an identified preferred job but the supervisor cannot take on all interested students, the college reserves the right to select the student(s) to be placed there based on students ability, interest, background, and previously identified acceptable alternative opportunities in as fair a manner as possible.

Students must keep in mind that supervisors go out of their way in busy job situations to provide these opportunities and therefore should express their appreciation for the opportunity to obtain this experience in an appropriate manner at the end of the placement.

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Evaluation	60%
Communications -	5%
Contract -	5%
Logbook -	10%
Oral Presentation -	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Students must successfully complete the work placement component and the oral presentation for a passing grade in this course

Students who are given an unsatisfactory evaluation (<60%) will receive a 'D' grade and those who are dismissed by their supervisor will automatically be given an 'F' grade in the course and will not be given an opportunity to repeat the course until the following fall semester.

A minimum of 50 hours of work must be completed for a grade to be entered for the fieldwork component. In the rare event that a supervisor is unable to provide the 50 hours of work, the student will be required to complete the needed hours in another job situation. Where students travel to an out-of town week-long placement, travel time will be counted towards the 50 hours required.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

Grade	Definition	Grade Point Equivalent
A+	90 – 100%	
A	80 – 89%	4.00
B	70 - 79%	3.00
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:

Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Special Needs 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.

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.