Course Syllabus

Department: Conservation

Date: October 8, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 260

Course Name: Principles and Techniques of Nature Interpretation

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: *supporting data required for grade prerequisite of 'C' or higher.*

This course presents an in-depth investigation and practice of the fundamental principles and concepts of nature interpretation. Historical development, current trends, methods and field techniques in nature study, outdoor education, interpretive programming and facilities will be examined.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable:

Nature Interpretation is an elective course for students in the AAS Natural Resources Conservation and AAS Natural Resources Conservation: Law Enforcement degree programs. It may also be taken as an elective for AS Environmental Studies students.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes: *State the student learning outcome(s) for the course (e.g. Student will be able to identify…)*

Students will:

1. Summarize the historical background of nature interpretation. (professional competency)
2. Explain the fundamental principles and concepts of nature interpretation. (professional competency)
3. Prepare and present orally topics in nature study and outdoor education. (professional competency, oral communication, information resources)
4. Outline basic techniques of trail development and nature center facility management. (professional competency)
5. Recognize the value of nature interpretation to society and the environment. (professional competency, global concerns)

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: *(check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)*

☐ writing	☐ computer literacy
X oral communications	☐ ethics/values
☐ reading	☐ citizenship

☐ mathematics X global concerns
☐ critical thinking X information resources

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): *For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.*

List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)	Specific assessment measure(s)
Oral Communications	Students will research and prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice in the study of nature or outdoor recreation and present orally to an audience on or off campus. Presentations in the field (outdoors) will be encouraged.
Global Concerns	Students will answer questions on exams concerning the importance of nature interpretation in maintaining a global view of the environment.
Information Resources	Students will research and prepare a presentation on a topic of their choice in the study of nature or outdoor recreation.

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

There is a required text for this course. Students will maintain a written journal. Students will utilize natural materials and the natural environment for required presentations.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

A combination of lecture, oral presentations and field experiences are used in this course.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

History of Nature Interpretation
Value of Nature Interpretation to society and the environment
Nature Interpretation employment
Elements of oral presentation
Primitive Low-impact Camping practices
Nature Interpretive facilities
Observation of professional Nature Interpreters