



RRTM303 –
Environmental Education
Master Course Syllabus

Course Overview (QM Standards 1.2)

Course Description: This course examines philosophy, techniques, and application of education in and for the out-of-doors. Topics include history and development of outdoor education, environmental education, including school camping, conservation, and interpretation techniques

Course Goals:

- Students will examine the concept of Nature Deficit Disorder through the writings of Richard Louv.
- Students will identify and explain how children develop their connection to the environment.
- Students will examine their own Environmental Paradigm by examining historical figures (Muir, Pinchot, etc) and discovering if they tend to be more eco-centric or anthropocentric.
- Students will examine how their paradigm influences their view on recent national environment issues such as the reduction of National Monument land etc.

Pre-Requisites (QM Standard 1.6)

There are no course prerequisites for this course other than being an RBA (Regents Bachelor of Arts) student.

Minimum Technical Requirements and Online Resources (QM Standards 1.5 & 1.7)

In addition to a web browser (preferable Firefox) that is Blackboard compatible, you will need the other WVROCKS supported technologies outlined in the student policies section. You should know how to access and use Internet, WVROCKS, and Microsoft Office programs, and you will need to have consistent access to these technologies. You should know how to use email with attachments. You will also need a flash drive.

Online Resources: This course makes use of many online resources. I have made every effort to make sure the links I have are up-to-date. However, due to the changing nature of the web, you may find that a resource is temporarily unavailable or has been removed. If this should happen, please send me an email and I will find an alternative resource or modify the assignment accordingly.

Instructor Information (QM Standards 1.8 & 5.3)

Individual instructors complete this information.

Virtual Office Hours

I am available in my virtual office by appointment only. Send me an email to set up an appointment.

Personal Commitment

My personal commitments to you as a participant include:

- I will reply to course mail messages within 24 hours;
- I will read all discussion postings and will reply where appropriate within 3 days
- I will acknowledge my receipt of every course mail message immediately upon reading it. If I am unable to respond to the request or concern at the time of initial reply, I will give you an estimated time for my next reply.
- If I am going to be away from the course space for more than a day or two, I will send a message to you indicating the length of my absence.
- I will regularly update information regarding due dates in the course announcements.

Optional/Required Course Materials (QM Standard 4.6)

Required:

Louv, R. (2005). *Last Child in the Woods*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books. [ISBN-13-978-1-56512-522-3]

Supplemental Readings:

- Cornell, J., (1998). *Sharing Nature with Children*, Dawn Publications, ISBN 1-8832220-73-4.
- *Interdisciplinary Teaching Through Outdoor Education*, Bunting: Human Kinetics, 2006, ISBN 0-7360-5502-9.
- Provty, Pannicucci, Collinson, (2007). *Adventure Education – Project Adventure*, Human Kinetics, ISBN 13:978-0-7360-6179-7.
- Redman, K., Foran, A., Dwyer, S. (2010). *Quality Lesson Plans for Outdoor Education*, Human Kinetics ISBN # 13:978-0-7360-7131-4.

Grading:

| Assignment | DUE | Point Value |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Introduction Assignment | Week 1 | 5 |
| Introduction Discussion | Week 1 | 5 |
| Readings/Writings from <i>Lost Child in the Woods</i> 4@20 | Week 1, 3, 5, 7 | 80 |
| Discussion Forum - <i>Lost Child in the Woods</i> 8 @ 5 | Week 1, 3, 5, 7 | 40 |
| Readings of Current Environmental Issues | Week 2, 4, 6, 8 | 80 |
| Discussion Forum regarding Environmental Issues | Week 2, 4, 6, 8 | 40 |
| Final Project | Final Week | 50 |

Scale

A= 270-300 points

B= 240-269 points

C= 210-239 points

D= 180-209 points

F=<180 points

Course Assignments:

Exams:

- Midterm covers Chapters 1-14
- Final Exam covers Chapters 15-23

Reviews of Lost Child in the Woods

Format for your review of “Last Child in the Woods” is essay.

- Each section (indicated by bold/italic/underlined) should be a minimum of 1/2-2 pages [each section indicates the minimum required (equals “C” level) – be more thorough for a higher grade but do not exceed 2 pages for each of the 4 sections)
- Through an essay format tie the concept in each section review together in a summary statement
- Each section should reflect what the author says and your views on what he says. You should also consider incorporating ideas from other sources when appropriate. Be thorough
- To show me you are using the text provide an occasional page number to reference an idea you take from the text (i.e. page 3). You must use the book to gain credit for each section
- **Instructions:**
 - Cut and paste each question found in bold underlined italics into a separate word document and use that document (save as .doc, .docx, or .rtf) as an outline in completing your answers.
 - Read the chapter and notes (PDF or PPT file) that are the focus of the questions.
 - Thoroughly answer each question (see above)
 - Use the information from the text (unless otherwise noted), the internet (if instructed to do so), the notes provided, and your own experience in thoroughly addressing each question.
- **Reference:**
 - For referencing the text simply include the page number you have found the relevant information with the answer.
 - For Web Sites include the web address using this format: Author. (year of article), title of article, retrieved on.....from: http://.....

Discussion Forum Postings: Each assignment will require students to post thoughts and ideas (based on their research). This is to help promote class interaction and allow students to learn from one another. In addition, you will be asked to critique comments of other students. This is not intended as a means to criticize other students but rather to help refine beliefs. Be sure to defend your position in your responses. To receive the full point value your submission must be thorough and reflect considerable thought. Forum Postings will not be graded/considered if done late as they are a class participation activity.

Current Environmental Issue Research and Discussion

Every other week you will be given two or three current Environmental Issues facing the nation today. Your task will be to research the issue, write a 3 page (of content) paper on the issue and discuss the issue with your classmates using the Discussion Forum

- What is the issue?
- Pros and Cons – What data do you have to support both sides of the issue?
- Where do the political parties stand? Where do the locals stand? Native Americans?
- What are the future implications?

| Sample of Discussion Topics (update each semester to current issues) |
|--|
| Dakota Pipeline and Native American Concerns |
| Grand Canyon National Monument – Uranium Mining |
| Raising of the fee to gain entrance into a National Park |
| Devils Tower, Wyoming (allowing rock climbing, Native American spiritual rights and changing the name) |
| Opening Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling |
| Nevada’s Gold Butte |
| Trump’s “Energy Independence” executive order and the impact on air quality and coal leasing on federal land |
| Opening Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll in the Pacific, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts in the Atlantic to commercial fishing. |
| U.S. leaving the Paris Accord |
| Bears Ears National Monument |
| Reduction of the Giant Sequoia National Monument and how rangers are trying to keep people away from certain sections |
| Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante |

Final Project:

Students will research can prepare a 4 page paper on their Environmental Paradigm. This paper should:

- Be a minimum of 4 pages of content
- Provide a historical examination/comparison of John Muir & Gifford Pinchot
- Include an examination of where their views lie in relationship to what they have learned and read in the course.
 - How has the book influenced your views?
 - How have historical figures influenced your views?
 - How have the case studies we have examined influenced your views?