

Syllabus OE 384: Undergraduate Natural History

Introduction:

OE 384 is a 6-credit course offered in conjunction with internships at Glen Helen Ecology Institute, and credit is granted through Antioch. OE 380 and 384 are taken concurrently. Receiving any credit is predicated on being on the trails with students for the entire term.

Course Objectives:

Interns will demonstrate an understanding of:

- The ecological relationships within the natural communities of Glen Helen Nature Preserve, including the meadow, thicket, deciduous & coniferous forest, pond, and stream
- The major flora and fauna in each of the communities
- Raptor ecology through the study and care of birds of prey at our Raptor Center
- Principal ecological concepts, such as succession, adaptation, interdependence, biogeochemical cycles, food webs, and the transfer of energy through living systems
- Physical geology, including rock formation and the rock cycle, mechanical and chemical weathering, glaciation, and paleontology
- Weather data collection and prediction

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Keep a journal of your growth and development with at least three entries per week.

Directors will review written journal entries and provide feedback when appropriate.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will keep a journal of his/her personal and professional growth during the course of the internship. At least three entries per week are required.

Good: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Discuss specific events that occurred during the week and analyze how he/she can learn or grow from these events
- Write more than the minimum required three journal entries per week while maintaining the content of the journal
- Self-evaluate his/her experiences and use the journal to document growth throughout the weeks

Exceptional: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Self-evaluate his/her own teaching methods and techniques referencing to specific events from the week
- Make connections from the week to training sessions held throughout the internship

Participate in all special events and seminars.

Directors will monitor participation in seminars and special events.

Acceptable: To receive credit, interns will participate in all special events and seminars provided.

Good: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Actively engage in events and seminars by asking questions and participating in discussions

Exceptional: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Incorporate skills developed in seminars into his/her teaching

Perform daily care of birds at the Raptor Center as trained. Teach about birds at the Raptor Center as part of the OEC curriculum.

Directors will monitor the completion of Raptor Center duties and teaching.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will complete daily Raptor Center duties on time. Interns will teach about the raptors as per the OEC curriculum

Good: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Demonstrate responsibility in caring for the Raptor Center birds by finding weekend replacements when needed and addressing concerns regarding the bird or enclosure to the Raptor Center staff
- Take initiative to learn more about the birds at the Raptor Center and their proper handling

Exceptional: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Seek additional training and knowledge about raptor ecology and incorporate the information into his/her educational hikes in an interesting and engaging manner

Incorporate the use of meteorological tools to teach about weather collection and prediction as part of the OEC curriculum.

Directors will oversee weather lessons, data collection, and weather reports facilitated by the intern.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will complete all weather collection and reporting sessions as assigned by OEC administration

Good: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Teach students how to use all available meteorological tools while collecting the current weather data
- Use teaching props appropriately while teaching about weather concepts

Exceptional: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Incorporate weather terms and concepts into other educational hikes as the content fits

Perform weekly rotating camp area responsibilities completely.

Directors will monitor the completion of area responsibilities.

Acceptable: To receive credit, interns will successfully complete all weekly camp responsibilities on time.

Good: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Ensure all aspects of the area are in good condition and report any problems
- Be aware and proactive of potential problems before they manifest

Exceptional: In addition to the above, the intern will:

- Take initiative to fix small problems gain assistance with larger problems
- Assist other interns in completion of their area responsibilities if needed