

Syllabus OE 580: Graduate Outdoor Education Methods

Introduction:

OE 580 is a 5-credit course offered in conjunction with internships at Glen Helen Ecology Institute and credit is granted through Antioch. OE 580 and 584 are taken concurrently. Receiving credit is dependant on being on the trails with students for the entire term.

Course Objectives:

- Plan and lead field trips to the biotic communities of Glen Helen, including the meadow, thicket, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, pond, and stream
- Design creative environmental education lessons and prepare and implement lessons based on OEC curriculum
- Apply outdoor education methods for elementary and middle school students
- Develop, organize, and effectively lead large group activities
- Model a positive attitude as a team player
- Apply teaching strategies based on inquiry and hands-on learning methods
- Develop and perform a character from the Ohio frontier

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Intern will actively participate in the initial three-week training period and semester long training seminars.

Directors will monitor participation.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern is required to participate in all sessions during the initial training period (make up opportunities will be provided in the event of illness or other emergencies).

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

- Actively engage in activities and lessons by asking questions and participating in discussions
- Apply the lessons of a training exercise to their own teaching

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

- Reflect on training exercises in their Naturalist journal and other appropriate forums
- Take on a leadership role during the training activities

Intern will lead a minimum of 14 weeks on the trail.

Directors will observe instructional hikes at least twice during the term and provide written and verbal feedback.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern is required to lead a minimum of 14 weeks on the trail using the OEC curriculum as hike themes

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

- Design hikes that meet the target grade level in content and understanding
- Properly use and adapt teaching materials provided by the OEC to aid in hike demonstrations
- Utilize techniques taught in training for group management and proactive discipline in an appropriate manner

- Continually grow and improve as an instructor throughout the term
- Exceptional:* In addition to the above, the intern will:
- Create new teaching materials that compliment hike themes and further demonstrate hike objectives
 - Teach to varying grade levels and learning styles to ensure comprehension

Observe instructional hikes of at least three peers and provide written and verbal feedback.

Directors will review written feedback.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern is required to observe three peers during an instructional hike. Following the guidelines provided, interns will provide written and verbal feedback to the observed peers and written feedback to the directors.

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

- Evaluate every section of the hike including teaching methods, hike planning, and techniques for group management
- Provide the observed Naturalist with specific examples of areas of achievement as well as suggestions for improvement in a professional manner
- Describe areas for self growth and ways to incorporate observed techniques into his/her own hikes

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

- Provide suggestions for new activities or demonstrations for the observed Naturalist in necessary areas
- Evaluate in depth specific examples from the hike and discuss what was observed based on techniques given during training as well as techniques developed by the Naturalist
- Demonstrate self-growth in hikes after observing peers

Attend each Friday meeting to evaluate the week and reflect on areas of needed growth.

Directors will monitor participation during Friday meetings.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will participate in all Friday meetings.

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

- Actively share experiences from the week and discuss areas of needed growth
- Respectfully listen to other Naturalists when they are sharing their experiences
- Voice concerns that arose during the week and provide constructive criticism when appropriate
- Accept constructive criticism in a professional manner

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

- Reflect on areas of needed growth that arose during the meeting in the Naturalist journal and with other peers when appropriate
- Act upon constructive criticism given during the meeting in a way to enhance his/her own learning experience

Develop and perform a character from the Ohio frontier for the Living History program.

Directors will collect character development materials and will observe character portrayal.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will create and portray a character from the Ohio frontier in the Living History program.

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

- Enhance a pre-made created character by adding additional background information, historical information, props, or hands-on portions
- Enthusiastically portray the character as accurately as possible while retaining the educational portion of the program

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

- Create a new character with a complete background, historical information, props, and hands-on portion in a manner that can be used by future interns
- Work with other Naturalists to help enhance their character or portrayal

Read one book from the provided book list relevant to environmental education. Write a 2-3 page reflection and participate in a discussion regarding the book.

Directors will review reflection paper and will conduct a group discussion of the book.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will demonstrate that he/she read and understood the reading in the written reflection and the group discussion

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

- Discuss areas of correlation between the book and the Naturalist program
- Share his/her reflections and provide specific ways to implement lessons from the book into OEC program

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

- Demonstrate the incorporation of concepts learned from the book into his/her own teaching

Create week-long lesson plans based on the Glen Helen Schoolcamp curriculum that successfully teaches the required objectives for each instructional hike.

Directors will review the lesson plan and provide feedback.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will use activities and concepts learned throughout training in lesson plans.

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

- Show a practical understanding of appropriate lesson flow

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

- Incorporate assessment techniques to gauge student comprehension

Oversee the proper use and maintenance of OEC educational materials for one educational hike.

Directors will oversee the maintenance of the educational materials.

Acceptable: To receive credit, the intern will keep accurate records of the available materials for their assigned lesson.

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

- Perform weekly inventory of the educational materials and inform an OEC administrator of missing or damaged items.

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

- Actively seek out materials that have gone missing.
- Attempt to repair or replace damaged materials.
- Provide suggestions about additions needed to enhance the hike.