COURSE SYLLABUS
Southeast Missouri State University

Department of: Health, Human Performance and Recreation
Title of Course: Outdoor Leadership
Course No: RC 310
New: Spring 2008

Department Approved: April 9, 2008
College Council Approved: May 7, 2008

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours:
Implementing technical and facilitation skills required in the backcountry and evaluating the
history, philosophy, and trends in outdoor adventure programming. (3 credit hours)

II. Prerequisites: Outdoor Living Skills; Recreation Major or Minor

III. Course Objectives:
Through participation in this class, the student will be able to…
   A. Recognize the historical significance of outdoor adventure and examine personal outdoor
      leadership skills and abilities.
   B. Demonstrate decision making skills and formulate leadership styles for participation in the
      outdoors.
   C. Discuss the role of values and ethics in outdoor leadership.
   D. Assemble and critique appropriate clothing and equipment for outdoor adventures.
   E. Design and evaluate proper procedures for outdoor trips.
   F. Navigate in the backcountry using advanced orienteering skills.
   G. Develop and demonstrate proper safety and risk management concepts for outdoor
      adventure trips.

IV. Expectations of Students:
   A. Students will participate in all class meetings and are expected to have completed
      pertinent assignments prior to class meetings
   B. Students will be expected to fully participate in experiential laboratory and out-of-class
      experiences as described by the course outline at the beginning of the semester.
   C. Students will achieve satisfactory grades on tests, reports, journals, class activities, and
      other assignments.

V. Course Content:
   A. Foundational knowledge of outdoor adventure education to include;
      purpose, heritage, breadth of profession, and understanding of leadership theory. 3
   B. History of Outdoor Leadership
      1. Dude Ranches and Guide Services
      2. Organized Camping Movement
      3. Scouting Movement
      4. Outward Bound Movement
      5. Professionalization of Outdoor Leadership
   C. Professional Development
      1. Elements of a Profession

Hours
2. Places That Use Outdoor Leaders
3. Professional Associations
4. Professional Practice

D. Judgment and Decision Making
   1. Judgment
   2. Decision-Making Process
   3. Decision-Making Models
   4. Decision-Making Methods
   5. Decision Making and Leadership Styles

E. Environmental Stewardship
   1. Environmental ethics
   2. Parks, wilderness areas and other protected areas management
   3. Leave No Trace ethics

F. Self-awareness and professional conduct to include:
   1. Acting mindfully
   2. Knowing one’s abilities and limitations
   3. Knowing how we influence other
   4. Behaving ethically

G. Expedition Planning
   1. Trip Purpose
   2. PREPARE System
   3. Logistics
   4. Clothing
   5. Equipment

H. Gain Technical ability in the areas of:
   1. Proficiency in particular activities
   2. Experience-based competency
   3. Outdoor living skills
   4. Orienteering

I. Use and apply Safety and risk management concepts to include:
   1. Participant safety
   2. Preparation and planning
   3. Legal aspects of safety and risk management
   4. Assessing abilities and limitations

VI. Textbook:

VII. Student Evaluation
A. Teaching Presentations– 20%
B. Practical Skills Exams– 20%
C. Journal/Portfolio - 30%
D. Participation/Leadership- 30%

Total Hours: 45