

# NR 368/568 Oral Interpretation Methods, 3 credits

## Syllabus – Fall 2022

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### Course Schedule

**Lecture:** Tuesdays 3:00-3:50 pm – TNR 120

**Discussions:**

- **Section 1:** Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:50 pm – TNR 271
- **Section 3:** Thursdays 2:00 – 3:50 pm – TNR 271

**To Be Scheduled:** Participation & evaluation of 1 evening or weekend public practicum program

**Final Exam:** Monday, December 19, 8:00 – 10:00 am – TNR 120

### Instructor

Dr. Chris McCart

TNR 182

715-346-2076

[cmccart@uwsp.edu](mailto:cmccart@uwsp.edu)

### Drop In Office Hours (TRN 182)

Tuesdays 9:00 – 10:00 | Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00 | Fridays 10:00 – 11:00 | or by appointment

### Course Description

In this course you will learn principles and techniques to communicate the values of natural history and cultural features to visitors at parks, recreation areas, museums, and other institutions.

### Required Course Materials

Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M. & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The interpreter's guidebook: Techniques for programs and presentations* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). UW-SP Foundation. (Provided for free in class)

Tilden, F. (2007). *Interpreting our heritage*. The University of North Carolina Press. (Free digital version via Library or purchase)

### Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to....

- Define and explain personal interpretation
- Identify the principles and concepts of effective personal interpretation
- Recognize and describe the spectrum of personal interpretation programs and the fundamental structure of any interpretive program type
- Develop an effective theme and messages for an interpretive program
- Create and deliver personal interpretive talks, guided walks, and illustrated talks
- Discuss the benefits of interpretive program evaluation and practice both self- and peer-evaluation.

**Evaluation/Course Requirements:** Detailed assignment instructions and grading rubrics and submissions in Canvas

Assignments	Points	Outcomes
Guidebook Readings		A-F
Tilden Journal	50 (10 pts. X 5)	B
Program Planning Theme Sheets	60 (20 pts. X 3)	D
Interpretive Talk	140	E
Interpretive Walk	180	E
Illustrated Talk	180	E
Participation and Evaluation of Peer Programs	180 (20 pts. X 9)	F
Sign Up, Participation, and Evaluation for 1 Practicum Program at Schmeeckle	20	F
PowerPoint Tutorial	50	B, C, E
Midterm Exam	50	A, B, C, D
Final Exam	50	A, B, C, D
<b>Total</b>	<b>940 points</b>	
<i>NRES 586 Project for graduate students</i>	+ 100	

## Grading Scale

94 – 100% = A	87 – 89% = B+	80 – 83% = B-	74 – 76% = C	67 – 69% = D+	60 – 63% = D-
90 – 93% = A-	84 – 86% = B	77 – 79% = C+	70 – 73% = C-	64 – 66% = D	< 60% = F

## Policies and Expectations

- **Professionalism:** Course expectations are aligned with professional employment expectations because I want to support your development of “soft skills” as well as “hard skills” needed for natural resource careers. Employers expect their employees to be present, prepared, do their work well, and communicate in an honest and timely manner if something comes up. So that is the expectation for this class. The [UWSP CNR Principles of Professionalism](#) provides more guidance.
- **Attendance and Participation:** The expectation is that you will attend and fully participate in all lectures and discussions because this is a face-to-face class. Excessive unexcused absences can negatively affect your final grade.
- **Sick:** If you are sick, please do not come to class. Instead, you will be assigned an official partner, and you will exchange contact information in case one of you is sick and cannot attend in person. Your partner is responsible for taking and emailing notes for you or hosting you on Zoom/Facetime.
- **Health Policy:** We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the [UWSP’s website related to COVID](#). The [CDC website](#) provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.
- **Due Dates:** All homework deadlines are posted in the syllabus schedule and announced in lecture. Most homework is due Friday afternoons by 5:00 pm. Readings are due by class start on Tuesdays or Thursdays; be prepared to answer questions about the reading in class.
- **Make Ups:** Start your assignments well ahead of deadlines and excused absences to prevent late work and have time to get assistance should problems arise. There is a 24-hour grace period for most assignments. After that, -10% is deducted for each day late and not accepted after 10 days. There are rare exceptions to these policies for extenuating circumstances in alignment with common professional workplace practice and university policy; in most cases you should communicate at least a day in advance of the due date.
- **Extra Credit:** You may sign up and attend one additional Practicum Program for extra credit.
- **Communicating with Your Professor:** I like helping students learn, so feel free to ask questions. I prefer face-to-face communication for complex questions and am available after class or during scheduled drop-in office hours (Tu 9-10; W/F 10-11). You can also schedule an appointment for phone or zoom by contacting me at least a day in advance. I will not be in my scheduled office hours during holidays, finals week, or during the NAI National Conference November 29-December 3. You can also email [cmccart@uwsp.edu](mailto:cmccart@uwsp.edu) with specific questions, please make a reasonable attempt to check the syllabus or Canvas for answers first. To model good work-life balance, I rarely email students outside of normal business hours and do not expect responses during weekends and evenings (although you are welcome to send emails then if that works for you).
- **Program Notes:** Only the illustrated talk can use PowerPoint. Live animals will not be allowed during student presentations. Programs go on rain or shine, so dress and adapt programs for the weather. If it roars (thunders), we go indoors.
- **Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Through your studies as a student, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. Students suspected of academic misconduct will be asked to meet with the instructor to discuss the concerns. If academic misconduct is evident, procedures for determining disciplinary sanctions will be followed as outlined in the [University System Administrative Code, Chapter 14](#).
- **Add-Drop Policies:** The last day to add or drop a 16-week course without a grade is September 15, 2022. The last day to drop a 16-week course with transcript entry is November 11, 2022. [Click here for UWSP Academic Calendar](#).
- **CNR Student Success Center** (TNR 122) has professional advisers and peer mentors for College of Natural Resource (CNR) students. [Click here for more information](#).

## Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

- **For reasonable accommodations and access,** please inform the instructor and contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) 715-346-3365 or [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu) to complete an Accommodations Request Form.

Tentative Course Schedule					
Week	Dates	Readings	Lecture: Tues. 3-3:50pm TNR 120	Discussion: Thurs. 11am-12:50pm (sec. 1) or Thurs. 2-3:50pm (sec. 3) TNR 271/Schmeeckle	Assignments: Due by Friday @ 5pm in Canvas
1	Sept. 6 & 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Syllabus <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 1	Introduction Roots of Heritage Interpretation	Defining Interpretation Interpretation is Engaging <input type="checkbox"/> Interpret Yourself: Bring an item that is "meaningful" to you	
2	Sept. 13 & 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Tilden Chapters 1, 2, 3	Tilden's Principles Meaning-Centered Interpretation	Themes Schedule Interpretive Talks	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Tilden #1
3	Sept. 20 & 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 6 pp. 116-136 <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 5	Creating Strong Themes	Interpretive Talks	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group A Theme Sheets for Interpretive Talk <input type="checkbox"/> Check In Survey
4	Sept. 27 & 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 4 pp. 73-86 <input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Tilden Chapters 4, 5, 6	Creative Techniques	Keys to Interpretive Communication Evaluation, Coaching, & Feedback	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Tilden #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group B Theme Sheets for Interpretive Talk
5	Oct. 4 & 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 7	Guided Walk & Tour Techniques	Interpretive Talks: Group A <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Up Schmeeckle Practicum Program (in class) <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (B & C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group C Theme Sheet for Interpretive Talk
6	Oct. 11 & 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 4 p. 87-89 <input type="checkbox"/> Tilden Chapters 7, 8, 9	Distracted & Disruptive Visitors	Interpretive Talks: Group B <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Tilden #3 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group A Theme Sheets for Guided Walk
7	Oct. 18 & 20		Intro PowerPoint Tutorial Midterm Exam Review	Interpretive Talks: Group C <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group B Theme Sheets for Guided Walk
8	Oct. 25 & 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Tilden Chapters 10, 11, 12	Midterm Exam	Guided Walks: Group A <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (B & C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Tilden #4 <input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group C Theme Sheets for Guided Walk
9	Nov. 1 & 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 6 pp. 137-151	Illustrated Talk Techniques	Guided Walks: Group B <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group A Theme Sheets for Illustrated Talk
10	Nov. 8 & 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Tilden Chapters 13, 14, 15	Spontaneous Interpretation	Guided Walks: Group C <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group B Theme Sheets for Illustrated Talk <input type="checkbox"/> Due: PowerPoint Tutorial
11	Nov. 15 & 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 9	Interpreting for Children	Illustrated Talks: Group A <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (B & C)	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Tilden #5
12	Nov. 22 & 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidebook: Ch. 5 pp. 109-111	Interpreting with Live Animals	No Class: Thanksgiving	
13	Nov. 29 & Dec. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Assigned Readings (in Canvas)	NAI Certification Program	Interpreting Difficult Topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Due: Group C Theme Sheets for Illustrated Talk
14	Dec. 6 & 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Assigned Readings (in Canvas)	Audience-Centered Interpretation	Illustrated Talks: Group B <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & C)	
15	Dec. 13 & 15		Final Exam Review	Illustrated Talks: Group C <input type="checkbox"/> Participation & Peer-Evaluation (A & B)	
16	Finals Week	Comprehensive Final Exam: Monday, December 19, 8:00 – 10:00 am in TNR 120			