

NRES 376 – Environmental Education Practicum

Spring 2019 Syllabus – CWES Component

Instructors

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Graduate Assistants

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After School Program Coordinator

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CWES Phone Number: 715-346-2937

Sections

NRES 376 – Meets one day a week (Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday) at CWES with two evening programs

Meeting Times: Typically between 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM, varies weekly

Goal

The goal of the CWES Environmental Education Practicum is to develop skills in creating, delivering, and evaluating environmental education programs for children and young adults.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will:

Be familiar with the CWES environmental education programs, including:

- Preparing lesson preps/plans for each lesson taught
- Learning and incorporating local phenology
- Developing lesson plans
- Reflecting on the lesson during the afternoon meeting
- Structuring lessons for age-appropriateness, sequence, and teaching techniques

Be able to critique their environmental education programs, including:

- Writing peer evaluations for other educators, as well as sharing your critique
- Writing self-reflections, including based on audio and video recordings
- Completing self and peer assessments
- Revising daily lesson preps from previous teaching opportunities
- Sharing their experiences and challenges from the day at each afternoon meeting

Be able to work in a team, including:

- Leading the staff as the daily CWES liaison
- Learning and modeling CWES procedures such as the meal procedures to school groups
- Offering suggestions for improvement to lessons, equipment, and procedures
- Volunteer for responsibilities as needed, such as leading games or setting up activities
- Receiving critiques from instructors

Be familiar with the aspects of an environmental education center, including:

- Learning the staff structure, budget, and daily activities at CWES
- Observing various teaching and management styles
- Partaking in kitchen and site facilities responsibilities
- Involvement in lesson development and lesson material upkeep and construction

Requirements

Grading will be based on the following:

Training (5% of grade)

3-Day Practicum Orientation

-Complete and participate in 3-day training on January 16-18, 2019

Weekly Responsibilities (65% of grade)

Visiting School Group Lesson Preps (30 points each)

-Completed lesson preps to be turned in by noon 2 days before teaching day.

-1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due.

-Points are based on thoroughness, clarity, and organization.

-Forms should be well thought out, clearly written, and include changes from previous week, as well as appropriate teaching goals

-Preps should continue to improve in questioning sequence, age-appropriateness, and teaching techniques as the semester progresses.

-Improvements and adaptations outside of the original lesson plan will be looked for.

TRCCS Nature Studies Lesson Plans (30 points each)

-Completed lesson plans to be turned in by noon 2 days before teaching day.

-1% will be deducted for each hour it is late, up to 36 hours after time due.

-Using the CWES lesson plan template, develop an original lesson plan geared toward the Tomorrow River Community Charter School Nature Studies program.

-Points are based on thoroughness, clarity, organization, and audience-specific activities.

After School Program Participation and Reflection (30 points each)

-15 points for participation and 15 points for reflection/evaluation.

-Assist After School Program Coordinator with an After School Program, helping with games, songs/skits, or nature journaling. Afterward, reflect on experience using After School Program Reflection Form. Form is due by noon, one week after assisting.

Special Projects and Assignments (30 points each)

-On some weeks, you may be required to complete a special project related to your practicum experience. These may include: creating lesson videos, assigning standards to lessons, working on videos and materials to support lesson development, and other projects as assigned.

Daily Responsibilities (5% of grade)

Daily Points (2 points per week)

-Fulfill duties as scheduled

-Oversee the program in its entirety to ensure a fun educational, and safe program

-Show up to CWES on time

-Participate in project days including the revision/creation of lesson plans

-Present yourself in a professional manner at all times

-Be an active and vital member of the CWES team

Evening Programs (5% of grade)

Evening Program Assistant (10 points each)

-Serve as an assistant for 2 evening programs, contributing to preparation as well

-Points are based on professionalism, preparedness, and participation in program

Quizzes (5% of grade)

Weekly Quizzes (5 points each)

-Each week there will be a quiz on Canvas that must be completed by 11:59 PM on the Friday of that week

-Quizzes are related to phenological information from the Nature Navigator website

Evaluations (15% of grade)

Peer Assessments (5 points each)

- Complete 3 peer assessments after observing a peer's lesson
- Share results with the educator and then turn in form to Program Manager
- Be honest and reflective in providing constructive criticism

Self Assessments (5 points each)

- Complete 2 self assessments after teaching a lesson
- Turn in assessment form to Program Manager

Audio Evaluation (10 points)

- After audio recording a lesson, complete the Audio Evaluation Form while listening to your lesson
- Reflect upon voice tone, fluctuation, pauses, grammar, speed, etc.
- Try to note particular strengths in your teaching voice and areas to improve upon
- Form is due by noon 1 week after receiving audio recording

Video Evaluation (10 points)

- After video recording a lesson, complete the Video Evaluation Form while watching your lesson
- Reflect upon teaching style, gestures, presence, classroom control, etc.
- Try to note particular strengths in your teaching voice and areas to improve upon
- Form is due by noon 1 week after receiving video recording

Values-Based Assessment (30 Points)

- Complete a values-based assessment, determining important qualities for effective environmental education
- Reflect on teaching experience and demonstration of values with instructor

Extra Credit: May be earned upon instructor decision

Remember

-CWES program staff are here to help you with practicum. If you have questions about assignments, if something is unclear to you, or if you have a special circumstance, please do not wait until the day something is due to ask for help.

-If at any time throughout the semester you would like to know what your grade is or how you can improve it, please schedule a meeting with the instructor. I want you to achieve your goals in this course.

Grading

A = 100-93%	A- = 92-90%	
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-66%	D = 66-63%	
F = 62-0%		