

NRES 376/482 – Environmental Education Practicum

Fall 2019 Syllabus – CWES Component

Instructors

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Graduate Assistants

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Sections

NRES 376 – Meets one day a week (Friday) at CWES and will participate in two evening programs.

NRES 482 – Meets two days a week at CWES, Monday through Friday, with three evening programs. Students will lead one evening program and assist with two additional 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 environmental education programs, including:

- Writing peer evaluations for fellow practicum students, as well as, sharing critiques
- Writing self-reflections, may also include audio and video recordings
- Completing self and peer assessments
- Revising daily lesson preps from previous teaching opportunities
- Sharing 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
- Participating in kitchen and site facilities responsibilities
- Involvement in lesson development, 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 August 28-30, 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 expected

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 After School Program Reflection Form (15 points each)

-Lead or assist in an After School Program: facilitating or helping with games, songs, and skits.

-Afterward, reflect on experience using After School Program Reflection Form. Form is due by noon 1 week after assisting.

Special Projects and Assignments (10-30 points each)

-On some weeks, you may be required to complete a special project related to your practicum experience. Examples: creating and editing videos, developing a weekly schedule, working on an educational display, developing/maintaining a trail, working on curriculum development.

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

-Always present yourself in a professional manner

-Be an active and vital member of the CWES team

Evening Programs (5% of grade)

Evening Program Leader (20 points each)

-Serve as the leader of 1-2 evening programs, including preparation and coordination with assistants

-Must turn in an Evening Program Leader Form by noon 2 days for teaching day

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

Evening Program Assistant (10 points each)

- Serve as an assistant for 3-5 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 the lessons of 3 separate peers
- 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 2 separate lessons
- 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

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

(50% of overall 482 course grade)

- 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%