

# NRES 376/482 – Environmental Education Practicum

## Fall 2019 Syllabus – CWES Component

### Instructors

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### Graduate Assistants

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**CWES Phone Number:** 715-346-2937

### 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%