

NRES 767: Fundamentals of Natural and Cultural Interpretation

Syllabus — Fall 2021

Instructors:

Dr. Brenda Lackey, Professor of Interpretation
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Megan Espe, Interpretation Instructor
715-346-4509 or mespe@uwsp.edu

Drop-in Hours

Megan is available for virtual drop-in hours from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Wednesdays. See Canvas for the link to join. An RSVP is recommended in case I had a conflict arise. To arrange meetings at other times, please e-mail mespe@uwsp.edu

Dr. Lackey is available by appointment. Please contact her at brenda.lackey@uwsp.edu to arrange an appointment.

Required Textbooks

Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The Interpreter's Guidebook: Techniques for Programs and Presentations*, 4th ed. Stevens Point, WI: UW-SP Foundation. [Available for purchase online.](#)

Tilden, Freeman. (2007). *Interpreting our heritage*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. [Available for purchase at UWSP Bookstore.](#) See Canvas for library options.

Course Overview:

The profession of natural and cultural interpretation may seem fairly contemporary, yet the primary foundation of guiding has been around for centuries. This course will provide history of the profession, the philosophy, principles, and theory that guide interpretation today, the array of professional opportunities available to interpreters, and the planning process used to provide effective interpretive services. The goal of this course is to provide students with basic concepts of natural and cultural interpretation and how they can be applied in a professional setting.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will be able to explain the evolution of interpretation and describe key figures who have contributed to the profession.
- Participants will be able to recognize definitions, principles, and goals of interpretation and identify how interpretation relates to similar fields.
- Participants will be able to describe and apply the steps in the planning process that are necessary to develop effective interpretation.
- Participants will be able to identify and describe personal interpretive services and media (non-personal).
- Participants will be able to explain pertinent theories and concepts underlying interpretation and apply them in work situations.
- Participants will be able to describe professional opportunities in interpretation and explain the role that agencies and organizations play within the profession.

Course Content:

The course is divided into six units based on major topics. Each unit will take two weeks to complete. Each new unit will not be available until the prior unit is completed. The units are listed below. See the “Schedule of Assignments” for dates when each unit will be open.

- Unit 1: The Roots of Heritage Interpretation
- Unit 2: Philosophy of Interpretation
- Unit 3: Interpretive Planning Process
- Unit 4: Introduction to Personal and Media Interpretation
- Unit 5: Theory Underlying Interpretation
- Unit 6: Professional Opportunities in Interpretation

Schedule of Assignments and Due Dates:

Each unit will have several assignments that encourage you to think about and apply the content presented.

- **Unit Papers** (25 pts each): Due on the 2nd Sunday of the unit period.
- **Tilden Journal Assignment** (1 per unit, 10 pts each): Due on the 2nd Sunday of the unit period.
- **Discussion Assignments** (10 pts each): Each has two due dates:
 - Your initial response is due on the 1st Sunday of the unit period.
 - Your reply to a classmate’s response is due on the 2nd Sunday of that same week.

The list below provides specific due dates for all of the course assignments. **Please watch our Canvas course and your university email for any changes throughout the semester.**

Introduction to Course—Sept. 2-8

- Zoom Class – Introductions (Wed. Sept. 8, 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- “Interpreting Yourself” – bring an object of personal significance to class

Unit 1: The Roots of Heritage Interpretation—Sept. 6-19

- Reading – Ch. 1 of *The Interpreters Guidebook*
- Tilden Journal Assignment (Due Sept. 19)
- Paper Assignment – “Dinner with an Interpreter” (Due Sept. 19)

Unit 2: Philosophy of Interpretation—Sept. 20-Oct. 3

- Reading – Ch. 2 of *The Interpreters Guidebook*
- Tilden Journal Assignment (Due Oct. 3)
- Discussion Assignment (Initial response due Sept. 26. Replies due Oct. 3)
“Defining Interpretation”
- Paper Assignment – What are Meanings? (Due Oct. 3)

Unit 3: Interpretive Planning Process—Oct. 4-17

- Reading – Chs. 3 & 10 of *The Interpreters Guidebook*
- Tilden Journal Assignment (Due Oct. 17)
- Draft of “Interpretive Planning for a New Program” (Due Oct. 10)
- Zoom Class – “Discuss Your Draft Program Plans” – (Wed. Oct. 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Paper Assignment – “Interpretive Planning for a New Program” (Due Oct. 17)

Unit 4: Introduction to Personal and Media Interpretation—Oct. 18-31

- Reading – Chs. 6, 7, & 8 of *The Interpreters Guidebook*
- Discussion Assignments (Initial response due Oct. 24. Replies due Oct. 31)
 - A. “What Makes Interpretive Media Effective?”
 - B. “Dialogic Interpretation?”
- Tilden Journal Assignment (Due Oct. 31)
- Paper Assignment - “A Memorable Personal Interpretive Program” (Due Oct. 31)

Unit 5: Theory Underlying Interpretation—Nov. 1-14

- Discussion Assignment (Initial response due Nov. 7. Replies due Nov. 14)
“Applying Other Theories to Interpretation”
- Tilden Journal Assignment (Due Nov. 14)
- Paper Assignment – “Behavioral Analysis Activity” (Due Nov. 14)

Unit 6: Professional Opportunities in Interpretation—Nov. 15-Nov. 28

- Discussion Assignment (Initial response due Nov. 21. Replies due Nov. 28)
“A Diverse Profession”
- Paper Assignment – “The Role Interpretation Plays in Your Organization?” (Due Nov. 28)

Summary and Feedback—Nov. 29-Dec. 10

- Zoom Class – “Professional Opportunities Discussion and Wrap-Up”
(Wed. Dec. 8, 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Course Evaluation Survey

Course Grading:

- Unit Paper Assignments: 150 points (6 total, 25 points each)
- Draft Interpretive Plan: 10 pts
- Tilden Journal Assignments: 50 points (5 total, 10 points each)
- Discussion Assignments: 50 points (5 total, 10 points each)
- TOTAL: **260 points**

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D+	67-69%
B-	80-82%	D	60-66%
		F	< 60

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

If accommodations are needed, please inform the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), datctr@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3365.