

RTM 151G
CHALLENGE/ROPES COURSES (2)
Class # 16765

Department of Recreation and Tourism Management
California State University Northridge
Fall 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Martin Crawford
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Dates/Times

Class Meetings: Oct 25, Nov 1, 8 (12:00 pm – 2:45 pm EACH DAY)
Field Trip Days: Nov 2, 4, 7 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm EACH DAY)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the safe operation of challenge/ropes course activities for outdoor experience. Emphasis on proper use of equipment and safety of both high and low component challenge courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of the course the students will:

1. Gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for the natural environment by demonstrating low impact construction and operation techniques for ropes course facilities.
2. Comprehend historical development of ropes course as urban adaptations of wilderness experiences.
3. Apply safe techniques for operation of high component ropes course facilities.
4. Apply rescue techniques for high component ropes course events.
5. Apply safe techniques for operation of low component ropes course facilities.
6. Develop self-confidence and self-awareness in conjunction with an understanding of the needs of others in the group.

COURSE CONTENT and COURSE SCHEDULE

Day One:

- I. Introduction
 - A. History of ropes course development
 - B. Urban ropes and classic wilderness

- II. Program Terminology and Review
 - A. Low components
 - B. Group initiatives
 - C. High components
 - D. Trust activities

- III. Low Component Safety Systems
 - A. Spotting techniques
 - B. Special hazards
 - C. Trust techniques

Day Two:

- IV. High Component Safety Systems
 - A. Dynamic belay systems
 - B. Static belays (lobster claws)
 - C. Zip line systems
 - D. Rescue systems

Day Three:

- V. Construction Concerns
 - A. Life safety lines
 - B. Back-up techniques
 - C. Inspection procedures
 - D. Impact surfaces

- V. Special Topics
 - A. Paired events
 - B. Health screening
 - C. Administrative requirements

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Methodology: Lectures and experiential laboratory sessions will use the CSUN ropes course facility.
2. Schedule of Instruction: The three-day schedule is noted alongside the course content outline.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Class Meetings	30% (10% each day)
Field Trip Days 60% (20% each day)
Skills Exam.....	10%

1. Examinations: An examination will be given on the final day of class.
2. Field Experiences: Students will be expected to satisfactorily perform the techniques and skills referenced in the class outline. The class sessions and field experiences will enable them to develop and master the appropriate ropes course skills. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS OR INCOMPLETES IF THE STUDENT CAN NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING THE FIELD TRIP DATES (MARCH 14,15,16)!**

REFERENCES:

Havens, Mark. Bridges to Accessibility: A primer for including persons with disabilities in adventure curricula. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1992.

Rohnke, Karl. Cowstails and Cobras II: A Guide to Games, Initiatives, Ropes Courses and Adventure Curriculum. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1989.

Rohnke, Karl. The Bottomless Bag Again. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1993.

Rohnke, Karl. The Bottomless Baggie. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1991.

Rohnke, Karl. Silver Bullets. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1984.

Rohnke, Karl and Butler, Steve. Quicksilver. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1995.

Wall, Jim B. and Tait, Catherine M. Ropes Course Manual. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishers, 1994.

Webster, Steven. Ropes Course Safety Manual. Hamilton, MA: Project Adventure Inc., 1990.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS, MISCELLANEOUS PEOPLE, FIREARMS, OTHER FOOD.
TO BRING ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL MEAN A FAILING GRADE
ASSIGNMENT. THEIR USE IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR SAFETY POLICY.

WHAT ABOUT RAIN/SNOW ETC.: IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT ABOUT WEATHER CONDITIONS, CALL 310-795-7678 ON FRIDAY MORNING AND A CANCELLATION MESSAGE WILL BE ON THE MESSAGE MACHINE IF THE TRIP IS OFF

MISC. RULES

*TRIP BEGINS AND ENDS AT TRAILHEAD; *CARPOOLS ARE ENCOURAGED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS BUT ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS.

COURSE POLICIES:

The CSUN criteria for grading (as outlined in the CSUN catalog) will be strictly followed.

1. An Incomplete (“I”) is assigned as specified by Instructor and upon consultation and approval of Instructor.
2. For Credit/No Credit grading, students must be doing passing work to receive “Credit.”
3. Plus/Minus grading will be used.
4. No make-up tests (unless prior permission received)

Student Discipline:

Inappropriate conduct by students (such as cheating on examinations or failure to comply with field trip rules) is subject to discipline as provided in Sections 41304 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. Refer to CSUN catalog for further details.