

**Recreation & Tourism Management**

**Course Syllabus**

**RTM353OL & RTM353LOL**

**Literature and the Wilderness Experience**

**Instructor: Paul Hellweg**

**Office Hours: Monday, 11:00-11:50, RE 265**

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A review of the writings of various wilderness adventurers both past and present. The emphasis will be on assessing their experiences in the wilderness, their goals, and the methods used to achieve them.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an awareness of the many values derived from the wilderness by outdoor adventurers both past and present.
2. Develop an understanding of diverse cultural attitudes towards the wilderness and what impacts may result therefrom.
3. Develop an appreciation for and understanding of the need for outdoor recreation and the unique opportunities in wilderness settings.
4. Develop a wilderness ethic of appreciation and respect through the writings of various naturalists.
5. Develop an understanding of the wilderness crisis today from an international perspective.
6. Develop an understanding of how discovery of the world around us can lead to discovery of the world within us.

COURSE OVERVIEW, Online Class (RTM 353OL):

Class participants will read approximately 40 pages from the class textbook per week, comment on these readings in online discussion boards, and take bi-weekly quizzes on the readings. Students will also read and write reports on three classic outdoor books, each of which has been selected on the basis of both accessibility and relevancy.

COURSE OVERVIEW, Lab Section (RTM 353LOL):

The lab section will consist of a two-day field trip (car camping), on a Saturday-Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. The purpose of the field trip is to provide the opportunity for class members to discuss class readings in an outdoor/wilderness environment. The field trip is a required component of the RTM 353 class and concurrent enrollment in both 353OL and 353LOL is mandatory. Students will be expected to attend the field trip, with exceptions being made in only the most exigent circumstances, in which case an alternate assignment will be required.

GRADING

PLEASE NOTE: The 353LOL lab will be assigned the same grade as is earned in 353OL (I'm not about to assign field trip grades based on who has the nicest tent, most relevant discussion comments, etc). The only exception would be the rare instance where a student cannot make the field trip, in which case that student's lab grade will be based on a qualitative assessment of her or his alternate assignment. If a student completes 353OL but neither attends the field trip nor completes an alternate assignment, that student will be assigned a failing grade for 353LOL.

The 353OL grade will be based on:

Discussion Board Comments = 20% (5% each, best 4 of 5 -- based on number and relevancy of comments)

Quizzes (4) = 20% (5% each, best 4 of 5)

Book Reports (3) = 60% (20% each)

### Miscellaneous Notes

A. Plus/minus grading will be employed

B. Grading Criteria

The CSUN criteria for grading (as outlined in CSUN catalog) will be strictly followed. Accordingly, an Incomplete ("I") is assigned only as specified by Instructor and upon consultation and approval of the Instructor. For Credit/No Credit grading, student must be doing passing work to receive "Credit."

### QUIZZES

There will be five quizzes, one for each two-week period of readings. Of these five quizzes, the best four will be counted towards your course grade. Each quiz will be posted for only the two weeks indicated under "Course Dates," thus it is important to stay current in your reading.

The quizzes are not intended to be difficult, rather, they are intended to differentiate between those who do the readings and those who do not. Each quiz will consist of 10 objective questions (multiple choice and true/false), and there will be a ten minute time limit. Quizzes are open book – feel free to refer to the readings and/or your notes.

### TEXTBOOKS

The primary course text will be:

Bergon, Frank, ed. The Wilderness Reader. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1980.

Additional texts are:

Krakauer, Jon. Into the Wild. New York: Doubleday, 1996.

Rusho, W.L. Everett Ruess: Vagabond for Beauty. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith, 1983.

Stetson, Lee. The Wild Muir: Twenty-Two of John Muir's Greatest Adventures. Yosemite: Yosemite Association, 1994.

The primary text is to be read and discussed (online and on field trip) at rate of 30-40 pages per week. Class participants will read and write reports on the three other texts. Not to worry, all three are highly accessible, and hopefully will be enjoyable.

Unfortunately, the primary text – Bergon's "Wilderness Reader" went out-of-print in July, 2008. The CSUN bookstore has seven used copies. A total of 31 new & used copies are available through Amazon.com. Additional used copies may be found at other online book sellers.

The three other texts – Krakauer, Rusho, and Stetson – are available at the CSUN bookstore.

### BOOK REPORTS

Due Dates

Sunday, Sep 28: "Into the Wild"

Sunday, Nov 16: "Everett Ruess: Vagabond for Beauty"

Sunday, Dec 7: "The Wild Muir"

Each book report is to be an essay of 1,000 words minimum (four pages) on the topic assigned below. Grading will be based on these criteria: 1) Persuasiveness of argument, and 2) Knowledge shown of the assigned book. The topics are:

1. "Into the Wild." Jon Krakauer – writing in reference to Chris McCandless – states that "Some readers admired the boy immensely for his courage and noble ideals; others fulminated that he was a reckless idiot." What do you believe? That is, do you think McCandless is to be admired or condemned? Discuss, supporting your comments with specific references to the book.
2. "Everett Ruess: Vagabond for Beauty." John Krakauer discusses the similarities between Chris McCandless and Everett Ruess. But how were the two different? Discuss, supporting your comments with specific references to the book.
3. "The Wild Muir." It has been argued that there are many benefits (such as increased self-confidence and a heightened sense of well-

being) that result from engaging in adventurous activities. Or in Muir's own words, adventures "will save you from deadly apathy, set you free, and call forth every faculty into vigorous, enthusiastic action." Discuss the benefits of adventure, supporting your comments with specific references to the book.

## FIELD TRIP NOTES

Field Trip will be a Saturday - Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, location to be announced.

### Items to bring:

#### Field Trip Equipment (Car Camping)

- PROOF OF CAR INSURANCE (if driving)
- Sleeping Bag
- Ground cloth/Sleeping pad/Tent
- Rain Gear
- Food/Water/Drinks (no alcohol!)
- Stove/ice chest/cooking & eating utensils
- Day Pack
- Canteens/Water Bottles
- Warm clothes (may be cold at night)
- Lawn chair
- Sunscreen
- Firewood (if possible)

### Class Materials to bring:

- All texts
- Notebook & pen or pencil

### Field Trip Policies:

1. Tents and rain gear required for everyone.
2. No firearms, illegal drugs or alcohol permitted. VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE FOR THE LAB CLASS, RTM353LOL
3. No pets.
4. Field trip is limited to individuals enrolled in class and authorized instructional staff. (There are likely to be one or more Teaching Assistants on the trip.)
5. It is likely to be cold, especially at night -- bring lots of warm clothes. Sleeping bags should keep you warm to below freezing temperatures.
6. Trip begins and ends at camping site; i.e., California State University, Northridge is NOT responsible for driving accidents.
7. Mandatory sign-in/sign-out at camping site.
8. University does not provide transportation. Make car pool arrangements in advance if possible. The class discussion board may be utilized to see car pool participants.
9. Notify course instructor if planning a side trip/excursion away from class camping area.
10. IMPORTANT! Check the online class Homepage immediately prior to departure. If there are any last minute changes or announcements, they will be posted online.

## COURSE DATES

NOTE: Book reports are due not later than the Sunday of the week indicated, but feel free to submit early if desired. Quizzes will be posted for only the two weeks of the indicated reading period. Also, there will be a new discussion board every other week. In short, the readings, quizzes, and discussion boards need to be completed according to the following schedule.

Week 1: Jan Aug 25-31: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 1-43

Week 2: Sep 1-7: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 44-85, Take Quiz 1

Week 3: Sep 8-14: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 86-122

Week 4: Sep 15-21: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 123-150, Take Quiz 2

Week 5: Sep 22-28: "Into The Wild" Book Report -- Due Sunday, Sep 28

Week 6: Sep 29-Oct 5: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 151-187

October 4 & 5 (Saturday & Sunday): FIELD TRIP

Week 7: Oct 6-12: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 188-229, Take Quiz 3

Week 8: Oct 13-Oct 19: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 230-272

Week 9: Oct 20-26: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 273-302, Take Quiz 4

Week 10: Oct 27-Nov 2: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 303-333

Week 11: Nov 3-9: "Wilderness Reader" pp. 334-372, Take Quiz 5

Week 12: Nov 10-16: "Everett Ruess" Book Report -- Due Sunday, Nov 16

Week 13: Nov 17-23: Read "Wild Muir"

Week 14: Nov 24-30: No assignment (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Week 15: Dec 1-7: "The Wild Muir" Book Report due Sunday, December 7

Week 16: Dec 8-12: Catch-up, last chance to turn in assignments -- **Course goes offline on Friday, December 12. All work must be complete by this date. No exceptions.**

Dec 11-17: FINALS WEEK (No final in this class).

### STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Inappropriate conduct by students (such as cheating on examinations) is subject to discipline as provided in Sections 41301 through 41304 of Title 5, California Administrative Code. Also applies to conduct on field trip (adhering to safety guidelines, etc.). Refer to CSUN catalog for further details.