# Course Outline Form: Fall 2016

## General Information

**Course Code:**

ENVS\*3000 Nature Interpretation

**Course Title:**

Nature Interpretation

**Course Description:**

An exploration of communication and experiential learning theories and their application to natural history interpretation and environmental education program design. Students will develop interpretive materials and identify a group to be the participants in an interpretive walk.

**Credit Weight:**

0.5

**Academic Department (or campus):**

School of Environmental Sciences

**Campus:**

**Semester Offering:**

Fall 2016

**Class Schedule and Location:**

Lectures:

Monday, Wednesday

09:30AM - 10:20AM

MINS 037

Labs:

Tuesday

02:30PM - 05:20PM

MCKN 305

## Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Professor Alan Watson

Instructor Email: awatson@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Alexander Hall Room 333. To set up an appointment contact me during the lecture or lab. You can also email me

## GTA Information

GTA Name: TBA

GTA Email: TBA

## Course Content

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

1. Introduce interpretive theory
2. Introduce the theory of the experiential learning cycle
3. Reinforce the principles of effective communication
4. Reinforce the role of nature interpretation in conservation
5. Reinforce the need for on-going assessment of interpretive activities
6. Master the ability to create interpretive media including writing and electronic media
7. Master the practice of program planning
8. Master the skill of leading an interpretive walk

### Lecture Content:

Unit 01: Definitions - Experiential Learning; Nature Interpretation

Learning Outcomes

Define the experiential learning cycle

Discuss the experiential learning cycle

Define nature interpretation

Discuss the elements of nature interpretation

Unit 02: Learning Styles and Communication

Learning Outcomes

Analyze your learning

Discuss Kolb’s four learning style types

Develop concepts about your learning style

Relate learning styles with the experiential learning cycle

Begin to apply learning theory to the practice of nature interpretation

Identify the variety of interpretive activities

Discuss the characteristics of participants in interpretive situations

Analyze the elements of effective communication

Discuss the barriers to communication

Unit 03: Communication and the Planning Process

Learning Outcomes

Choose the appropriate methods of questioning

Assess the four characteristics of effective interpretation

Examine the range of interpretive media

Examine the seven Principles of Interpretation

Assess the need in planning for well organized, clear objectives

Examine the steps in interpretive planning

Unit 04: Developing Interpretive Objectives: Critical Thinking

Learning Outcomes

Examine the three learning domains in Bloom’s Taxonomy of Critical Thinking

Analyze the steps in the steps in each of the three learning domains

Design objectives for interpretive activities based upon Bloom’s Taxonomy

Unit 05: Leading Interpretive Walks

Learning Outcomes

Examine the elements that make up an interpretive walk

Apply interpretive theory to leading an interpretive walk

Examine the elements of leadership

Design an interpretive walk based upon an informed selection of elements

Unit 06: The Role of Interpretation in Environmental Conservation

Learning Outcomes

Analyze the role of nature interpretation in ecological conservation and sustainability

Examine your ecological values

Evaluate your ecological values with respect to their role in participants’ values development

Assess the role of culture in the development of ecological values

Unit 07: The Roles of Interpretation in Sustainable Tourism

Learning Outcomes

Define ecotourism, nature tourism, green tourism, and sustainable tourism

Compare the objectives of ecotourism, nature tourism, green tourism and sustainable tourism

Examine the benefits of ecotourism

Examine the problems often associated with ecotourism

Compare the values development process with respect to interpretation and ecotourism

Assess examples of ecotourism activities

### Labs:

Date Topic

Week 1 Interpretation Fundamentals

Week 2 Trail Guides

Week 3 Interpreting Non-urban Environments

Week 4 Site Visit: MacDonald Stewart Art Centre

Week 5 Planning, Presentation and Evaluation I

Week 6 Planning, Presentation and Evaluation II

Week 7 Interpretive Writing

Week 8 Interpretive Presentations

### Seminars:

### Course Assignments and Tests:

| **Assignment or Test** | **Due Date** | **Contribution to Final Mark (%)** | **Learning Outcomes Assessed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Interpretive Trail Guide | **Oct 7**  (Week 4) | 20% | 1, 2, 3 & 4 |
| Information re: Interpretive Walk | **Oct 14**  (Week 5) |  |  |
| Mid-term | **Oct 26**  (Week 7) | 20% | 1, 2 & 3 |
| Interpretive Walk Plan | **Nov 4**  (Week 8) | 15% | 4, 5 & 7 |
| Interpretive Writing / Interpretive Video | **Nov 18**  (Week 10) | 20% | 4 & 6 |
| Interpretive Walk | **Nov 21 - Nov 25**  (Week 11) | (25% based upon Self Assessment) | 3, 4 , 5 6, 7 & 8 |
| Self Assessment  (Take Home Final Examination) | **Dec 9**  (Final Exam Period) | 25% | 3, 4 , 5 6, 7 & 8 |

Additional Notes (if required):

### Final examination date and time:

December 9, Take Home Final

### Final exam weighting:

25%

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

Hay Group (2007). *Kolb Learning Style Inventory Version 3.2*

Maloof, Joan (2005). *Teaching the trees: lessons from the forest.* Athens Georgia, University of Georgia Press. ISBN 0-8203-2743-3

Michael Gross, Zimmerman, R. and Bucholz J. *Signs, trails and wayside exhibits.* UW-SP Foundation Press. ISBN 0-932310-47-8.

Regnier K., Gross, M. and Zimmerman, R. *The Interpreter's Guidebook*. UW-SP Foundation Press. ISBN 0-932310-17-6.

### Recommended Texts:

### Lab Manual:

### Other Resources:

### Field Trips:

### Additional Costs:

## Course Policies

### Grading Policies:

Turnitin:

In this course, we will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

Extensions Policy:

Any request for an extension must be e-mailed to awatson@uoguelph.ca before the assignment due date. Your e-mail request for an extension must have your completed work to date for the assignment attached. No extension will be granted if you have not completed what I consider to be a reasonable amount of work on the assignment.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Any assignment submitted after the due date will be considered late and there will be grade reductions based upon the following schedule:

* 1st, 2nd and 3rd day late: 10% of assignment grade value reduction for each day.
* 4th and subsequent days late: an additional 5% of assignment grade value reduction for each day.

### Course Policy on Group Work:

Group work is not allowed for any of the graded activities.

### Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

## University Policies

### Academic Consideration:

The University of Guelph is committed to supporting students in their learning experiences and responding to their individual needs and is aware that a variety of situations or events beyond the student's control may affect academic performance. Support is provided to accommodate academic needs in the face of personal difficulties or unforeseen events in the form of Academic Consideration.

Information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions, including categories, grounds, timelines and appeals can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml).

### Academic Misconduct:

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Detailed information regarding the Academic Misconduct policy is available in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

### Accessibility:

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), formerly Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or visit the [Student Accessibility Services website (http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/)](http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/).

### Course Evaluation Information:

End of semester course and instructor evaluations provide students the opportunity to have their comments and opinions used as an important component in the Faculty Tenure and Promotion process, and as valuable feedback to help instructors enhance the quality of their teaching effectiveness and course delivery.

While many course evaluations are conducted in class others are now conducted online. Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](https://courseeval.uoguelph.ca/) **for more information.**

### Drop period:

The drop period for single semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period and extends to the Fortieth (40th) class day of the current semester (the last date to drop a single semester courses without academic penalty) which is listed in [Section III (Schedule of Dates) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/).

The drop period for two semester courses starts at the beginning of the add period in the first semester and extends to the last day of the add period in the second semester.

Information about Dropping Courses can be found in [Section VIII (Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures) of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml).

## Additional Course Information