

ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADVENTURE SPORTS:
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

COURSE: AVS 231 Challenge Course Management

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A comprehensive study of the skills and knowledge necessary to manage a challenge course, this course will focus primarily on safety and risk management, site inspection, rescue, equipment maintenance, accident and incident analysis and documentation, medical screening, standard operating procedures and local operating procedures, program design, program manuals, and staff development. Emphasis will be placed on the challenge course installation, inspection, operational, and ethical standards identified by the Association for Challenge Course Technology.

PREREQUISITE: HED 108, AVS 221

CREDIT HOURS: Lecture: 2 hr. Lab: 3 hr. Credit: 3 hr.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Students will:

1. integrate general learning theories of adventure based learning
2. analyze and evaluate experiential theory for challenge course leadership
3. contrast standards and practices of challenge course associations
4. analyze and evaluate adventure programming facilitation and management skills
5. evaluate instructor manuals, staff development, risk management and operational plans
6. apply group management and leadership skills
7. contrast strategic plans, business plans, and marketing plans
8. devise and evaluate risk management plans and protocol
9. devise and evaluate the adventure programming planning process
10. evaluate standards of performance for challenge course facilitators
11. synthesize relevant experiential theory for challenge course leadership
12. prepare challenge course learning modules
13. demonstrate advanced competency in challenge course safety, rescue and facilitation
14. demonstrate competencies in challenge course management
15. interpret challenge course features, their construction, inspection, and standards

COURSE TEXTS:

The Association for Challenge Course Technology. Challenge Course Standards. Purcellville, VA: ACCT. 2005.

Garvey, D., Leemon, I., Williamson, J., & Zimmerman, W. Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programs. Boulder. CO: Association for Experiential Education. 1999.

Rohnke, Karl, et al.. The Complete Ropes Course Manual. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. 1997.

Webster, Steven, E. Ropes Course Safety Manual: An Instructor's Guide to Initiatives and Low and High Elements. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. 1989.

COURSE CONTENT:

- I. General Theories of Adventure Based Experiential Learning

- A. Outward Bound Model
- B. NOLS Model
- C. Project Adventure
- D. Five-Stage Model of Experiential Learning
- E. Experiential Learning Paradigm
- II. Challenge Course Training, Pedagogy, and Accreditation Standards
 - A. Outward Bound
 - B. Project Adventure
 - C. Association for Challenge Course Technology
 - D. Association for Experiential Education
- III. Adventure Learning Goals
 - A. Transfer of Learning
 - B. Challenge by Choice
 - C. Full Value Contract
 - D. Professional Certification
 - E. Challenge Course Leadership
- IV. Accreditation Standards
 - A. Project Adventure
 - B. Association for Challenge Course Technology
 - C. Association for Experiential Education
- V. Challenge Course Installation, Repair, and Inspection
 - A. Association for Challenge Course Technology
 - B. The Design and Installation
 - C. The Inspection
 - D. The Repair
- VI. Standard Operating Procedures
 - A. Designing and Implementing a Risk Management Plan
 - 1. Forms
 - B. Assessing Risk and Hazards
 - C. Ethics
 - D. Liability
 - 1. Standard of Care
 - 2. Negligence
 - 3. Litigation
 - E. Policy and Protocol
 - 1. Standards of Practice
 - 2. Instructor Manuals
 - 3. Incident/Accident Management
 - F. Program Planning
- VII. Group Management
 - A. Stages of Group Development
 - 1. Forming
 - 2. Norming
 - 3. Storming
 - 4. Performing
 - B. Evaluation of Group Development
 - 1. GRABBS Modality
 - C. Affects of Group Dynamics
- VIII. Adventure Leadership
 - A. Cultural Foundations
 - B. Historical Foundations
 - C. Technical, Safety, and Environmental

- D. Instructional and Organizational
- IX. Challenge Course Leadership
 - A. Responsibility
 - 1. Skills
 - 2. Equipment Limitations
 - 3. Environmental Elements
 - B. Judgment and Decisions
 - 1. Problems, Options, Solutions, Plan
 - C. Hypothermia and Hyperthermia
 - 1. differences, precautions, treatment.
- X. Leadership Theory
- XI. Management Theory
 - A. Scientific
 - B. Human Relations
 - C. Contemporary
- XII. Fiscal Management
- XIII. Personnel Management and Staff Development
- XIV. Marketing and Public Relations
- XV. The environment
 - A. Minimum impact techniques.
 - B. Erosion problems associated with regularly used sites
- XVI. Metaskills
 - A. Leadership Style
 - B. Effective Communication
 - C. Experience-Based Judgment
 - D. Problem Solving
 - E. Decision Making
 - F. Professional Ethics

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Butler, Steve and Rohnke, Karl. QuickSilver: Adventure Games, Initiative Problems, Trust Activities and a Guide to Effective Leadership. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. 1995.
- Cain, J. and Jolliff, B. Teamwork and Team Play. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. 1998.
- Heider, J. The Tao of Leadership: Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching Adapted for the New Age. New York: Bantam Books. 1986.
- Hunt, J.S. Ethical Issues in Experiential Education. Dubuque, IA: Kendal/Hunt. 1990.
- Klint, K. & Priest, S. Experiential Evaluation. Tacoma, WA: Tarrak Tech. 2004.
- Priest, S., & Gass, M. Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. 1997.
- Priest, S. & Hirsh, J. Essential Elements of Experiential Programming. Tacoma, WA: Tarrak Tech. 2005.
- Rohnke, Karl Silver Bullets: A Guide to Initiative Problems, Adventure Games, Stunts, and Trust Activities. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. 1984.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

With or without reasonable accommodation, all students must be able to:

- Navigate difficult and varying terrain in the mountain, aquatic, challenge course, and alpine environments.
- Lift and carry heavy loads that often exceed 50lbs. over difficult and strenuous terrain.
- Walk, paddle, climb, and hike long distances carrying substantial weight.
- Assist in rescue efforts which may include lifting, climbing and carrying substantial weight over difficult and varying terrain.

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a post-secondary student with a disability who is in need of academic accommodations or auxiliary aids is required to notify the College of the nature of the disability and to provide appropriate documentation which supports the request for reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids.

Individuals who would like to self-identify with a disability (and have not already) or think they may have a disability and want to request accommodations should contact the Office of Accessibility Services directly in Warren Hall, or call 743-2282 / (TTY) 743-2323 for an appointment.