AGRI 4970
Facilitating Experiential Learning & Leadership
College of Agriculture, Auburn University
Fall 2008

Instructors: Dr. Don Mulvaney         Laura Herring
             Office: 102 Comer Hall     Office: room ___ Foy Union
             Phone: 844-3200           Phone: 844-3450
             E-Mail: mulvadr@auburn.edu E-Mail: herrilm@auburn.edu

Other facilitator / instructors: TBA

Class Day/Time: Thursday, 9:30-10:45 (room 220 UpChurch Hall); some Friday's 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Class Location: Ham Wilson Livestock Arena and/or AU Challenge Course

Required Text/Materials:


- A variety of sources will be identified to enable students to create their own arsenal of learning reinforcement


Course Description:
Learning theory applied to facilitation of leadership learning experiences. Learning outcomes / skills are relevant to students in leadership, adventure education, physical education, recreation, and outdoor education. Course allows for entry-level employment in adventure, outdoor education, and recreation positions.

This is a pilot course that will give student added credentials and enable them to develop communication capacities around facilitation skills.
*This is a unique course experience. Current content and the format/pedagogy is not being offered in other courses.

**Course Objective:**
Students will become *skilled* at thinking creatively and critically in applying knowledge of learning theory to enable others to learn. Students will learn how to make a difference in the lives of others in a variety of settings through practice of an arsenal of leadership exercises, application of reflective thinking, the “See, Do, Get” model for learning and skills in debriefing learning and leadership experiences.

---

**Facilitating Experiential Learning & Leadership – AGRI 4970 (Mulvaney)**

**Learning Outcomes.** At the conclusion of the course experience, students will:

- become knowledgeable, competent and proficient at debriefing learning exercises
- be better-able to design leadership learning experiences
- have a broad view of experiential education and programming and its application to youth development
- be able to evaluate, assess and understand the role of games, low- and high-element courses, and outdoor pursuits in leadership education
- use key concepts, student activities, and Web-based research to enhance the learning processes
- employ real-world examples to explore strategies for experiential leadership education in a variety of settings; and
- learn core skills for effective facilitation and leadership preparation in adventure programming.

**Course Requirements:** Class participation, skill proficiency, quizzes, research on topics, Mid-term and Final

**Attendance and participation:**
Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You are expected to come to every class meeting, except in the case of a university approved excused absence: medical cause, or emergency (see *Tiger Cub*). If you are absent due to a university excused absence, any assignment will be due at the beginning of the next class period. **IMPORTANT: You are allowed only two unexcused absences. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of a letter grade in your final grade.**

Students are expected to assume responsibility for performing assignments (reading, written).
Research. Students will be expected to conduct in-depth research and study of leadership topics and approaches which will enhance their ability to gain expertise in facilitating experiential leadership processes.

Plagiarism. All written work submitted electronically will be submitted to Turnitin.com in order to flag for evidence of non-original work. Violations will be reported according to the Tiger Cub.

Disabilities: Any student that needs special accommodations should notify the instructor and/or contact the Program for Students with Disabilities in 1244 Haley Center as soon as possible (Dr. Sara Weaver, 844-2096). This course requires physical fitness in many of the elements which are “challenge by choice”.

Academic Honesty: Most online sources of copied material can be found easily using standard web search engines. The College of Agriculture also subscribes to a detection service for more recondite sources. See “Easy Guide to Reporting Honesty Cases by Faculty Members” in the Tiger Cub (.pdf), which also contains, in the section “Cheating,” A Definition of Plagiarism (.pdf). Please note all written assignments are subject to submission to “Turnitin” software to detect plagiarism and assist you in your capacity for ethical writing.

Disclaimer: Instructors reserve the right to modify the content modules and topics (in number, depth and sequence) in order to enhance the overall learning experience. Whenever possible, students will be alerted of these changes in advance by email.

Special Times for Challenge Course: Students should expect to spend some weekends or late afternoon sessions outside of class time as the opportunity arises in order to appropriately experience, practice and hone their skill sets.

Example Projects.

- Videotaping of knot tying
- Creation of brochure for AU Challenge Course
- Service time at the AU Challenge Course (everyone required to accompany a group)

Grading Policy. Course grades will be determined based on the following point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; research</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belay (10), Knots prep and performance (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debriefing activity (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading an activity (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View videos (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Leadership exercises for arsenal</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentaries on reading and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quizzes (5 @ 15 points each)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special digital projects 20
Attendance at sessions & meeting 20 (bonus)
Total: 400 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>360-400</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>280-319</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>320-359</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>240-279</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facilitating Experiential Learning & Leadership – AGRI 4970 (Mulvaney)**

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week 1**
Orientation, planning for success; Chapter 1. Introduction to Experiential Leadership Skill Education; GRABBSS; Full Value Contracts; Learning by Design; Experiential Learning Cycle

*Activities*: Warm-up games as a whole group; activities, games and initiatives

**Week 2**
Chapter 2. Philosophy and Theory of Adventure Education; Purpose of Elements; Standard Operating Procedures; Chapter 3. Cornerstones of Experiential Leadership Education; Debriefing techniques

*Activities*: Community building activities

**Week 3**
Chapter 4. Liabilities, Risk and Safety in Adventure Programming; Chapter 6. Responsibilities of Adventure Education Leaders

*Activities*: addressing communication skills, trust, critical thinking and decision making

**Week 4**
Chapter 5. Individual Outcomes of Participating in Adventure

*Activities*: Initiative Wall, Trust Steps, Whale Watch, Wild Woosey, Multiswing

**Week 5**
Chapter 7. Facilitating the Experiential Leadership Education Process

**Week 6**
Harnessing, knots, equipment, Belay Systems (static and dynamic), equipment safety checks

*Activities*: Harnessing, tying knots, selecting appropriate equipment, Belay, safety checks, coiling your ropes

**Week 7**
Belaying techniques and leading climbing activities

*Activities*: Actual Belaying, Leading climbing, Safety communications
Week 8  Midterm

Week 9  Chapter 8. Creating an Arsenal: Portable Experiential Leadership Education Activities

  Activities: actual Belaying, Leading climbing, Safety communications

Week 10  Facilitating Low-Element Challenge Courses

**Facilitating Experiential Learning & Leadership – AGRI 4970 (Mulvaney)**

Week 11  Safety and Rescue issues (SOP’s)

  Activities: transfers, Catwalk, Multivine Traverse, Burma Bridge

Week 12  Facilitating High-Element Challenge Course

  Activities: Diminishing Returns

Week 13  Discussion and quiz

Week 14  Chapter 11. Teaching and Leading Experiential Leadership Facilitation Pursuits

Week 15  Overview of the Accreditation Standards of the Association for Experiential Education; Chapter 12. Adventure Education Programming and Possible Career Paths

Week 16  Final TBA

**One trip to a Atlanta Rocks may be scheduled at a mutually agreeable date.**

**Approximate fees:** mileage $10, food $10, rental $17

******************************************************************************************************

AGRI 4970 Program Honesty Statement: (clip and return)

By affixing my signature below, I acknowledge I am aware of the Auburn University policy concerning academic honesty, plagiarism, and cheating. This policy is defined in the current Tiger Cub Student Handbook, Code of Laws, Title XII, Student Academic Honesty Code, Chapters 1200-1203. I further attest that the work I am submitting throughout this course is solely my own and was developed during the course. Unless designated with proper referencing, I have used no notes, materials, or other aids except those permitted by the instructor.

__________________________________ Date: _____