

College of Health and Human Development
Department of Recreation and Tourism Management

RTM 151A: Backpacking
#16761

Instructor: Brittany Applen
Credits: 2
Term: Fall 2008
Office Hours: TBA
E-mail: brittanyapplen@gmail.com
Prerequisites: None

Important Dates

Class Meetings: Saturdays, 9am – 11:45am – 9/13, 9/27 & 10/11

Field Trip: 10/17 – 10/19

Course Description: Introduction to backpacking as an outdoor pursuit. Emphasis on proper use of equipment and safety of participants in the natural environment. This course is designed to give students a general overview of and experience in backpacking and spending time in the backcountry. Through a mixture of lecture, activities and overnight outings, students will gain a working understanding of how to efficiently and safely experience backcountry travel.

Student Learning Objectives: At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the concepts of backpacking at the beginning and intermediate levels
2. Develop an appreciation for nature and the opportunities it affords
3. Demonstrate how to comfortably and safely spend time in the backcountry
4. Discuss minimal impact backpacking practices as part of the Leave No Trace philosophy
5. Understand the importance of escaping the daily grind of roommates, tests, work, and TV and get outside and enjoy nature
6. Demonstrate knowledge of selecting camping areas and tent set-up techniques
7. Apply safe techniques for operation of backpacking equipment such as stoves, water filters and firemaking

Class Format: Important: This class has been revised, and is now a two (2) credit course incorporating much more specific information to the culminating activity itself. In addition to the in-class instruction, the class will incorporate a weekend field trip culminating experience to facilitate the learning of the material in a hands-on format conducive to student learning. You are responsible for keeping abreast of meeting times and locations when not meeting in the classroom.

Class Trip: See date above. Attendance on this trip is **mandatory**. Make sure you are available from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon of the weekend corresponding to your trip. If you have a commitment during the weekend trip, you will have to either switch sections to a different weekend or drop the class. Unfortunately, there is no way around this.

Class Policies:

Respect and Disruptions: As college students, it is expected that you behave as adults. This means showing respect for both your fellow students and instructor. Do not come to class if you do not plan on paying attention and contributing. Reading books, sleeping, talking, texting, etc. will not be tolerated. If you show up late to class, please come in quietly from the back of the classroom. **Turn off your cell phone prior to class** – disruptions of this kind are not only disruptive; they are extremely rude in a classroom. Failure to follow these rules will result in a lowered grade, or receiving a final grade of F.

Office Hours: If you would like to meet with me outside of class time, please email me so we can arrange a time. In general, I will be available following class. Please be sure to plan ahead when emailing me questions, as I generally check email several times per week. If you send an email the night before something is due asking a question, you may not get a reply until it is too late. Please plan ahead.

Attendance: It is essential that you come to class. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. Tardiness and absences will result in a lowered grade and possible failing the course.

Website and Email: Please be sure to access the course website regularly. Assignments, readings, updates and important messages will be posted on the website. Email will be the main mode of communication in this class. Please be sure that you have an active CSUN email address.

Make-up notes will not be given for those who missed lecture. It's not fair to those who make the effort to come to class. If you miss a portion of the lecture, you are responsible for getting the information from your classmates.

Self-handicapping behaviors – Many students will attend class in a physical condition that is less than adequate to complete the physical demands of this class. As a result, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss the student for his or her own safety. These instances include, but are not limited to: all-night social activities (i.e., dance marathon, all night study sessions), being

sick due to alcohol or other drug use, and chronic dehydration. Depending on the circumstances and the frequency of these situations, the instructor reserves the right to charge the student with an absence.

Grading Scale:

90-100%	=A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
<59%	= F

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance & Participation (in class)	30%
Attendance & Participation (field trip)	60%
Skills Test	10%

Attendance & Participation: You will be graded on your attendance and participation in this course. Failure to do the assignments, listed below will affect your grade in this area.

Assignments: The major assignment for this class is the weekend backpacking trip. Additional information on specific assignments will be given in class and posted on the course website. Assignments are due on the date and time given. Reading assignments will be posted on the course website. Please be certain to complete the assigned readings prior to the class that they are due.

Skills Test: There will be a skills test that will assess your knowledge of course material. There may also be short, in class quizzes. Make-ups will not be permitted.

MISC NOTES

A. Grading Criteria

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

1. An Incomplete ("I") is assigned only as specified by Instructor and upon consultation and approval of the Instructor.
2. For Credit/No Credit grading, student must be doing passing work to receive "Credit".

B. Student Discipline

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

C. If you will be driving your vehicle to the fieldtrip, you must fill out the proof of insurance form before the trip. Please bring your proof of auto insurance to class on the day that you are asked to.

D. Alcohol, illegal drugs, miscellaneous people and pets, and firearms are not allowed on course trips. Bringing one or more of these will result in being dropped from the class.