

Common Course Outline
RECR 246
Introduction to Natural and Historical Interpretation
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Introduction to Natural and Historical Interpretation

Introduces concepts of environmental and historical interpretation through a practical approach; covers audio-visual techniques, computer assisted learning, nature trail development, leadership of nature oriented activities, and actual field identification practice. Includes eight off-site field trips.

3 credits: 3 lecture hours per week

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 1) explain the process of interpretation and the six principles of interpretation;
- 2) research a subject to prepare for development of the interpretive process;
- 3) explain the technical aspects of interpretive display;
- 4) develop an interpretive display, program, or exhibit; and
- 5) remember the experience of and utilize the learning acquired from visiting various facilities and programs that involve the process of interpretation of facts to the general public.

Major Topics

- I. Orientation to the field of interpretive services
- II. Agencies that utilize interpretation
- III. Values and benefits of interpretation
- IV. The Clients
- V. Traditions, Principles, and Challenges
- VI. Research processes
- VII. Nature Centers and Outdoor Education Centers
- VIII. High Density Use Interpretation
- IX. Historical Interpretation
- X. Living History
- XI. Re-enactments
- XII. Trips, tours, and hikes as tools for interpretation

Course Requirements

Grading/exams/writing assignments: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- ♦ Readings and exercises which include
 - Reading the textbook as a supplement to course material presented;

- ◆ Locating an article on a disability and reporting to the class on how one could interpret to this population;
- ◆ Attending eight class field trips to various sites that employ interpretation techniques in their operations;
- ◆ Prepare and present to the class some form of interpretation project, such as:
 - a living history interpretation,
 - creation of an interpretive brochure,
 - creation and presentation of an interpretive walking tour, or
 - an interpretive presentation of an historical event or a phenomenon of nature;
- ◆ Creation of an Interpretation Notebook which includes notes and handouts from each of the class field trips; and
- ◆ One exam on the book, class lectures, and discussions.

Other Course Information

This is a minimum course outline. Individual instructors have the right to add additional requirements.