

Instructor:

Kurt Hanniger

Office: N/A. Office hours are available upon request.

E-mail: khanniger@weber.edu (please do not use WSU online portal email)

Cell Phone: 801-920-3628

## Policies and Procedures

1. Purpose

- a. The purpose of the Navigation Field Studies course is to introduce students to the knowledge and skills needed to navigate along the surface of the earth via maps. Although there are many types and formats of maps we will focus on thematic, and planimetric topographic maps. The course will focus on using these maps in conjunction with both compass and electronic navigation aids. Instructors will introduce students to these topics through lecture, assigned readings, in-class activities, and assigned tasks and homework.

2. Course Objectives:

- a. Students will demonstrate map interpretation skills through using topographic map symbols, colors, scales and contour lines and drawing correlations between them.
- b. Students will be able to identify natural landforms by their contour line representation on a topographic map.
- c. Students will be able to use a simple base plate compass to both measure and plot field bearings.
- d. Students will demonstrate how to follow a compass bearing in the field to within a three degree error.
- e. Students will demonstrate how to plot a field bearing on a map with accuracy.
- f. Students will be able to combine the appropriate map and compass skills to triangulate their position within one quarter mile.
- g. Students will be able to plot a GPS coordinate (using either UTM or Lat/Long) onto a topographic map to within 49 meters.
- h. Students will be able to use a GPS for computing surface areas and distances.
- i. Students will be able to download GPS data for use in a spreadsheet.
- j. Students will be able to successfully program and navigate to a given location using a GPS.
- k. Students will understand and apply practical traveling skills by successfully and safely completing a field based practicum.
- l. Students will be able to apply navigation skills to a professional setting by successfully completing the Navigation Logistics Project.

3. Age Requirements

- a. Participants must be at least 17 years of age by the first day of class.

4. Required Texts

- a. Wells, D. (2005), NOLS Wilderness Navigation, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA.

## 5. Absences

- a. Class attendance is 20% of your grade.
  - i. Class attendance does not include final field day. Final Field Day is 30% of your grade.
  - ii. The final field day (last class) cannot be rescheduled. Students who are unable to attend this date and time must take either an Incomplete as a final grade or fail to have the 30 points added onto their final score. Students willing to accept an Incomplete grade must make up the final during the next offered course, typically the following semester.
- b. Being absent from classes may put you or other students at risk on a latter field class.

## 6. Lateness

- a. Some classes start at one location and then quickly move to another. If you know you are going to be late please contact your instructor so we can update you on any in-class location changes.
- b. Field Days will start their logistical prep and instruction on time as listed in the syllabus. If you are unable to meet us at the stated time you will most likely miss critical information needed for the trip and also delay group departure.

## 7. Dress Code:

- a. Please dress appropriate for the class and activity. This means being prepared to be physically active in some way or another.
- b. If the class is listed OUTSIDE or FIELD we will spend some or all of our time outside of the classroom. Since we are limited in our classes and can't make up any, be prepared for whatever the weather. If it is raining or snowing and we are scheduled to be outside, we will be outside.
  - i. OUTSIDE days will still be on the WSU campus but require that you are prepared to be outside (regardless of the weather) with appropriate footwear and clothing. Unless otherwise listed, outside days will require walking around campus, both on and off paved surfaces, and kneeling or sitting on the ground.
  - ii. FIELD days will require that you are prepared to be outside in a significantly less urban setting. Unless otherwise listed, field days will require light hiking (both on and off-trail), walking through dense brush and undergrowth, lifting, stretching, and kneeling or sitting on the ground.
- c. Students who come to class lacking appropriate clothing or equipment so that they represent a safety hazard will not be allowed to participate.

## 8. Footwear:

- a. For any class that says FIELD you must wear closed toe shoes. Sandals, tevas, flip-flops, Birkenstocks, etc are not acceptable.
  - i. Footwear on field days must attach onto your foot with laces or other secure method. (i.e.: no clogs)
- b. Hiking boots are not needed and a simple pair of sneakers will suffice. Although we recommend footwear with ankle support for off-trail travel.

- c. Students who come to class with inappropriate footwear will not be allowed to participate.

9. Fitness and Difficulty Level:

- a. Although this class is designed for beginners and intermediates it does require a certain level of physical fitness. Participation in the class will require you to hike, and be outdoors in all weather environments (sun, rain, snow, rain, etc).
- b. Instructors are supportive and will gladly assist you in preparation to overcome any reasonable challenge.

10. Homework and Assignments:

- a. Homework is designed to give you additional skills and is thus designed to be relevant to your development as a potential field leader.
- b. Homework is due at the beginning of class and will be collected then. Late assignments are reduced 10% per day late.**
- c. Homework assignments are listed on your detailed syllabus.

11. Readings

- a. You should find readings relatively short and I hope interesting.
  - i. Readings are provided to increase your base knowledge and jump-start your skill development prior to class.
- b. Classes are designed around the assumption that students have read prior to class. Instructors try to focus the classroom time on expanding knowledge and practicing skills.

12. Transportation

- a. Students are responsible for getting themselves to and from field sites by the start of class time. The instructor cannot organize car pooling or provide personal transportation to and from sites.
  - i. One field site is within two miles of the WSU campus and is accessible by WSU shuttle, another field site is approximately three miles from campus and is not accessible by public transportation, and another field site (Final) may be up to a 30 minute drive east of Ogden.

13. Injuries:

- a. All participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk and Liability Waiver.
- b. Any outdoor or educational experience is not risk free. Some risks are inherent in these activities and cannot be eliminated or reduced. A variety of other risks also exist. Weber State University (WSU) has taken reasonable steps to assure that our student experience a rewarding activity. However, these inherent and other risks, hazards and dangers can cause injury, property damage, illness, mental or emotional trauma, disability or death. WSU does not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for these activities, but believes it is important for you to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the risks. We ask that you read the Assumption of Risk and Liability form in its entirety, sign it, and return it to your instructor.

- c. If you become injured please notify your instructor immediately.
  - i. Do not wait to notify your instructor before seeking medical attention.
  - ii. WSU or your instructor is not responsible for any costs incurred for your medical treatment. You must have adequate means to cover your own medical costs.

14. Equipment

- a. Participants are financially responsible for any equipment loaned out to them during this course. Missing or purposefully or negligently damaged equipment will need to be paid for by the student(s) prior to successful completion of the course and a grade being posted.
- b. The following is a partial list of equipment you may need to safely participate in the final field day:
 

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Small daypack             | 8. Water                                 |
| 2. Appropriate footwear      | 9. Lunch or snacks                       |
| 3. Sunglasses                | 10. Lightweight warm jacket and/or pants |
| 4. Sun hat                   | 11. Fleece hat & gloves (optional)       |
| 5. Sun block                 | <b>12. Pencil(s)</b>                     |
| 6. Rain gear (tops/ bottoms) | <b>13. Firm Surface to write on</b>      |
| 7. Umbrella                  |  |
- c. The instructor will provide the following for each participant group:
 

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Topographic map | 4. FRS Radio     |
| 2. Compass         | 5. Map Grid Tool |
| 3. GPS unit        |                  |

15. Grading:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Class Attendance and Involvement:            | 20 points  |
| <i>Each 2-hour class (2.5 points)</i>        |            |
| <i>(Does not include final field day)</i>    |            |
| Homework:                                    | 50 points  |
| <i>Pacing (5 points)</i>                     |            |
| <i>Map Interpretation (10 points)</i>        |            |
| <i>Compass and GPS Exercises (10 points)</i> |            |
| <i>Field Day #2 Participation (5 points)</i> |            |
| <i>Navigation Logistics (20 points)</i>      |            |
| Final Field Day:                             | 30 points  |
| <i>Practicum Assignment (30 points)</i>      |            |
| Total  | 100 points |

Grading Scale:

|                    |              |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| A+ = 100-97 points | B = 86.9-83  | C- = 72.9-70 |
| A = 93-96.9        | B- = 82.9-80 | D = 69.9-50  |
| A- = 92.9-90       | C+ = 79.9-77 | E = 49.9-0   |
| B+ = 89.9-87       | C = 76.9-73  |              |