Course Description: Course is an analytical overview of trends and programs in outdoor education and summer camp management. A variety of applied activities are incorporated into the class. These include:

a. Overview analysis of various camps to evaluate program designs and differences, which include day camps, sleep away camps, church camps, camps for special populations, special program camps, and sports-specific camps.

b. A required one/two week lab where students will participate in the organization, running and closing of a specialized summer camp; and multiple day travel trips to several different types of camps to observe training programs, camp activities, and camp management.

c. Student will participate in an outdoor education/summer camp counselor training program in five areas with the goal of obtaining leadership endorsement

A variety of methods such as lectures, role-play, observational analysis and hands-on skill participation will be incorporated into class time. The major goals will be to develop the instructional abilities of students in outdoor education activities; develop camp management skills; develop program design creativity; and to improve recording and reporting writing skills.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Become familiar with a wide variety of camp settings.
2. Develop a working knowledge of promotions and marketing techniques for different types of camps.
3. Develop an understanding of outdoor facilities and resources.
4. Learn the principles of staff development in camp settings.
5. Learn the principles of adventure dynamic activities program designs.
6. Develop leadership/teaching techniques for endorsement/certification in outdoor educational activities such as: archery, canoeing, skiing, biking, sailing, and venture dynamics among others.

Requirements:

40% 1. Participating in a staff development workshop with related projects and practical exams. All students will take a practicum exam in all general activity areas.

20% 2. Developing and presenting an instructional manual for an outdoor education activities.

20% 3. Visiting 4 different types of camps and compiling a resource portfolio to include: each camp’s marketing brochure, staff recruiting and training modules, activities schedules, administrative policies, etc.

20% 4. Writing a researched position paper on an aspect of outdoor education, recreation, or camp management of journal publishable quality and length (4-6 pages) in appropriate modified APA format style. Paper must meet professional standards and be approved by the instructor for submission to a camping/recreation related magazine or journal.