NRRT-350: Wilderness Leadership
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus
Section 001 Tuesdays 4-6:50pm
Section 002 Wednesdays 4-6:50pm
Location: 222 W Laurel Ave
Instructor: Ethan Billingsley
NOTE: This syllabus might change slightly as readings and details are added.

Course Objectives: This course develops the fundamental skills of teaching and leading in the outdoors away from the trailhead—also known as wilderness. Emphasis is placed on creative thinking, hands-on learning, and direct experience.

Week 1 Introduction of instructors, course policies, syllabus, and field session overview. Information forms, student introductions and learning inventories exercise. What is Wilderness? Leadership Compass exercise. Group dynamics.  
READING for next class Ch. 1 & 2 AMC guide to outdoor leadership

Week 2 Discuss AMC reading. Map & compass. OP overview. (Knot #1)  
READING for next class Ch. 3 Adventure Programing

Week 3 Discuss Protected areas. Field trip discussion and cook group planning. Gear demo: backpacking and hiking gear, sleeping bags and clothing. (Knot #2).  
HW: Reflective Journals  
READING for next class: Ch. 16 AMC guide to outdoor leadership

Sept. 11-12 Field Session #1: Wilderness Navigation Trip and 14’er

Week 4 Field session debrief and reflective journals due. Leave No Trace (LNT) techniques and philosophy. QUIZ (Knot #3)  
READING for next class: Ch. 1 How to Rock Climb, Ch. 3 Mastering Rock Climbing

Week 5 Rock climbing ground school including knots and technical demonstrations. belay check-offs (Knot #4)  
READING for next class: Mountain Guide Manual Ch. 4, Ch. 5 & 8 Mastering Rock Climbing,

Week 6 Sport climbing gear selection/care. (Knot #5).

Week 7 Anchor clinic and top rope site management. Field trip discussion.

Oct. 9-10 Field Session #2: Rock-Climbing Skills in Practice

Week 8 Field session debrief. Larimer Country search and rescue guest. Climbing documentary review. Exam review.  
HW:Student Field Lectures.

Week 9 Mid-term exam. Reflective journal due.  
READING for next class: Ch. 11 AMC Guide to outdoor leadership

Week 10 Student Field Lectures. Quiz. Expedition behavior and experienced based judgment. (Knot #6).
Week 11  **Student Field Lectures.** Mountain biking gear and technique. (Knot #7)  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 1 NOLS Wilderness Medicine

Week 12  **Student Field Lectures. Quiz.** Wilderness Medicine: Environmental Injuries (hypothermia, frostbite, heat stroke, high altitude) first aid kits, basic field assessments (Knot #8)  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 7 AMC guide to outdoor leadership

Week 13  **Student Field Lectures. Quiz.** Introduction to mountaineering, Field safety.(Knot #9) **READING** for next class: Ch. 21 Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills

**Fall Break (no class).**

Week 14  **Quiz.** Expedition planning. (Knot #10)  
**READING** for next class: Ch. 5 AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership

Week 15  **Quiz.** Mapping technology. Leadership attributes exercise, leadership theories in the outdoors, leadership compass. **Exam review**

Week 16  Final Exam (written and knot practical)