



Natural History – MAST 114

Mountain Adventure Skills Training Program

Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2003
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2019
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: March 2024

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an overview of the natural/cultural history of the Southern Canadian Rocky Mountains and develops interpretation techniques to communicate this information. Lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on field experiences will cover the topics of geology, ecology, botany, biology, human history, ecosystem-based management and heritage interpretation. Students develop skills in classification, identification, interpretive techniques, and stewardship of the environment.

Program Information: This course is required for completion of the MAST certificate.

Delivery: This course is delivered face-to-face.

COTR Credits: 3

Hours for this course: 45 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	20
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	25
Other Contact Hours	
Total	45

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	
Formal Work Experience	
Other: Field Experience	25
Total	25

Course Outline Author or Contact:

Sarah Osberg, MAST Program Coordinator/Instructor

Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Department Head
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Dean of Business and University Studies
Darrell Bethune
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Department Head Signature

Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2019 – March 2024

Education Council Approval Date

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Flexible Assessment (FA): There will be no prior credit for this course.

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA

Yes No

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Prior Course Number: MSTA 114 Natural History A & B
New Course Number: MAST 114 Natural History (MPHIA)
Date changed: March 2009

Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Gadd, Ben. (2009). *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*. 2nd Edition. 4th Printing, Jasper, Alberta: Corax Press.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate competence in species identification;
 - design an interpretation program/experience for clients based on the natural/human history topic of the Southern Canadian Rocky Mountains;
 - describe personal actions of guides that contribute to sustainable tourism in the Rocky Mountains;
 - define the non-living and living components of four general ecosystems – wetlands, grasslands, forest and old growth forests;
 - list species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates in each ecosystem and draw a food web to show how they are interrelated;
 - list threats to ecosystems and suggest methods to reduce human impact when recreating commercially;
 - identify the characteristics of healthy ecosystems;
 - list threats to ecosystems and suggest methods to reduce human impact when recreating commercially;
 - identify common trees, flowers, birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles of Southeastern BC;
 - describe the basic geological processes forming the Rocky Mountains;
 - key common plants and recall their use to humans; and
 - describe the principles of ecotourism and issues of concern around sustainable tourism development and suggest solutions for problems facing the industry.
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COURSE TOPICS:

- Creating memorable visitor experiences – value and benefit of natural history to the adventure tourism industry
- Introduction to the Ecosystems of BC and the East Kootenays
- Ecology – Ecosystems, living and nonliving elements, biogeoclimatic zones, biodiversity
- Wetlands and Grasslands
- Geology – Construction of the Rocky Mountains, Glaciation, Elk river watershed
- Wildlife of the Rocky Mountains
- Fauna – Birding, aquatic insects, wildlife, ethics of wildlife viewing
- Botany – identification of local species, human uses, natural processes

- Ecosystem Management – Purpose of Parks, Heritage Tourism Strategy, Role of guides
- Interpretive Guides Basic Knowledge Certification - To ensure professional standards of communication of the natural and human heritage of our mountain national parks.

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT (Face-to-Face Delivery):

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Natural History (Special Place Seasonal Journal)	20%
Student Action Project	10%
Visual flora/fauna/geology identification test	30%
Participation and attitude	20%
Final Project	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Please see the instructor syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.

EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See www.cotr.bc.ca/policies for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will endeavour to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.