

Primitive Survival Course Outline

Dixie State College of Utah - Fall 2013

Identifying Information

Course Number: PEHR 1530-50b
 Course Name: Primitive Survival Skills
 Credit Hours: 1 Credit Hour
 Times: Wednesdays 5:15 - 7:45pm (6 sessions + finals week grading meeting)
 Location: University Plaza 110B and off campus sites as announced
 Fees: \$10.00 lab fee
 Text: Suggested (note: not required) Text: Outdoor Survival skills by Larry Dean Olsen, available as a paperback in most any bookstore. Students are expected to make extensive use of the links embedded in the attached skills worksheet.

Instructor: Dr. Robert G. Snow
 Phone: 435-879-4620 (office) 435-773-0198 (cell)
 Email: rsnow@dixie.edu
 Office: NIB 121 (northeast corner)

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is:

1. To introduce the student to the basic principles of outdoor and/or primitive skills based survival
2. To give the student a chance to learn about the specific competencies and techniques useful in survival situations.
3. To give the student exposure to safety and health oriented topics pertaining to the outdoor environment
4. Provide a forum for sharing of personal expertise, opinion, philosophy, experiences, etc.

Schedule:

Date	Location	Description
09/11/13	Classroom	Mile wide & inch deep – Course requirements & outline - getting organized and acquainted
09/18/13	Virgin River Beach	Fire making methods – Gathering materials for projects
09/25/13	Classroom	Bring your collected stuff
10/02/13	Oak Creek – above Leeds	Shelters – traps and snares – hunting technology
10/9/13	Classroom	Bring your collected stuff, and we will go outside after a brief cls
10/16/13	Santa Clara Creek near Gunlock	or Beaver Dam Wash at Motoqua - Fishing and hunting, wild foods
10/23/13	Washington City Virgin River Park	Continue with skills & tools techniques development
10/30/13	TBA	Final formal session – more demonstrations and skills sheet checks
12/11/10	5 minute individual sessions	Each student will be required to meet with me individually during finals week to review your grading worksheet and make sure we are in agreement. A sign-up sheet will passed around during the last class session. – If you miss this, your grade gets dropped one full grade – for example, from an A to a B.

Specific Directions to each field experience will be e-mailed. I often lead a caravan to the site if people are unsure about finding it. We simply agree to meet at a particular place at 5:03pm. Competent direction finding has become an essential part of class. It is not a bad idea to try to find the location on a prior day well before the class meeting – could give a chance to gather necessary materials too.

We often find it helpful to have voluntary sessions in the middle of the day so that sun dependent skills are easier – fire starting using lenses, mirror flashing, shadow compasses, etc. We usually meet in one of the open areas on campus.

If we need extra time to complete some projects, it often happens that we continue to meet for a time or two at the regular time and day- or even on a Saturday morning, but that also is completely voluntary – although participation points are always awarded for attendance.

General Information

Up to date information on the class will be posted on bulletin board near my office door (schedule changes, etc.) I also make extensive use e-mail to keep you informed and will be addressing you at your DSC Student address (**required**).

For all the field experiences you will need :

1. A small sharp knife,
2. a "possibles" bag,
3. a shade producing hat,
4. and (always) a full water bottle.
5. Appropriate dress and footwear - While the people on the popular TV programs typically are scantily clad in swimwear (or less) when doing activities like this (something to do with ratings I'm sure), it is essential that you wear something more substantial for our classes, including long sleeves and real footwear (sturdy closed toe shoes). This activity takes place in the dirt, among the weeds thorns and thistles, in the hot sunshine, around water, and with a lot of attendant stooping, sitting, bending over, hovering, etc. Pay attention! It is possible that I might send you home if you appear completely unprepared for class (wearing flip-flops and short shorts for example).
6. Routinely wearing sunscreen is highly recommended.

There are many sites on the World Wide Web that contain useful outdoor survival information. It is suggested you become familiar with the use of a web search engine to find appropriate information and I will also be sending you an assortment of bookmarks throughout the class.

Disability Accommodations: Dixie State University is committed to a policy of cheerfully providing reasonable accommodation to any student with a situation or condition that might otherwise constrain full participation. Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services and then works directly with the instructor to devise appropriate strategies.

You are responsible for your own transportation to and from our off campus sites. While it would seem to be a good idea for you to car pool to these remote sites, I cannot, for liability reasons, have anything to do with the arrangements. However, I do reserve the right to take appropriate action if, in my judgment, a driver is endangering other class members with reckless or intoxicated driving or anything similar.

I also reserve the right to disallow the participation of any class member that in my judgment creates a possible safety issue, or inappropriate/counterproductive conflict or situation. Should such measures become necessary, the student involved will be required to immediately leave the vicinity but will be responsible to arrange to meet with me within 2 school days (48 hours) to resolve any outstanding issues or questions.

While on field trips, we are essentially at an extension of the campus. This means that you are expected to act responsibly and behave in a way that brings credit to the College; specifically, any evidence that a class member is doing something dangerous, illegal, or against College policy can be punished (at the very least) by removal from the class, including loss of credit. Included in this type of boorishness would be use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, sexual harassment, cliff diving, firearm or fireworks use, etc. You get the idea.

I expect you to come to class on time and to stay for the entire period. It is also expected that you remain attentive and actively participate in the various opportunities.

Only registered class members will be allowed to participate in class activities.

We should note and be prepared to adjust the course curriculum to deal with uncontrolled natural conditions such as fire/flood/or other calamity. We will be extremely careful and alert to possible problems. However, please note that I very rarely cancel class prematurely because of bad conditions. We will proceed to the site and even explore our options before deciding to cancel.

There is no such thing as an excused absence for this class. However, because we are in such close proximity that it would be wisdom for you to consider the possible consequences for other class members if you are ill with anything that might be Swine Flu (a fever would be an important indicator). I will take such considerations into account and am willing to have a "makeup" and maybe even an overnight session after the end of the regularly scheduled class periods if it becomes needed.

Grading and Evaluative Process

Participation -200 points possible, 25 points for full participation in each session

Quizzes - as many as 4 quizzes randomly distributed. 5 points each and points are awarded subtractively. Everyone starts with 20 points. If I need to start giving quizzes to encourage on-time attendance then points will be subtracted. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Competencies Sheet – 150 points goal; Including 60 for the miniature survival kit (at minimum, 2 ways to make a fire, 2 ways of signaling).

We will be using the mandated Department Grading scale.

FCS/PEHR Grade Scale

A = 95%-100%	B+ = 88-90%	C+ = 78-80%	D+ = 68-70%
A- = 91%-94 %	B = 84-87%	C = 74-77%	D = 64-67%
	B- = 81-83%	C- = 71-73%	D- = 61-63%

If you get into grade related problems, negotiated (This means that you have to get prior approval from the instructor) extra credit possibilities include research and writing on a survival related topic.

Your instructor is greatly concerned with the potential for a class of this type to cause damage to the environment in a small area surrounding our weekend field trip by means of our foraging for raw materials, food, fiber and such. Consequently the class will be limited when it comes to things like building large shelters, making coal beds, and similar activities with significant possible impact.

Also of concern is the possibility of injury resulting from polluted water, issues related to the possible use of foodstuffs such as insects, small rodents, snakes, fungi, and suchlike, insect food quality, possible violations of game and fish laws and similar concerns. We will be simulating some of the experience and we will doing things like filtering water in a way not often really accessible in a true survival situation.

Please note the accompanying sheet of skills, competencies and projects for course content information. We will also be talking about priorities and social issues related to survival.