



KNES 3213 Outdoor Adventure Programming Syllabus
Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education
Dr. Carrie Taylor
March 21st -May 8th
Spring 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office: Camp Jolly (Birdwell Hall 320)
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11-1
Tuesday & Thursday 8-9:30
Classroom: Birdwell Rm 205 & 108 West Gym
MWF 10-10:50
Email: carrie.taylor@msutexas.edu

Contact Preference

If you cannot stop by the office, my preferred communication method is email. I check my email throughout the day (MTWR), so you can expect to hear back from me usually within 12-24 hours of receiving your message. Do not expect a response during the evening hours or over the weekend; I will respond the following Monday. The preferred method of communication is email or my office.

Instructor Response Policy

During the week, I check my email throughout the day (MTWR). I will typically respond to your emails with 12-24 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response the following Monday. Do not expect a response during the evening hours or over the weekend. Emails received during an academic break will be answered once we return to campus.

Textbook

Priest, S., & Gass, M.A. (2017). *Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming* (3rd edition). Human Kinetics: Champaign, IL

Resource

[Purdue OWL: APA Formatting and Style Guide](#)

Communication Policies

Before emailing me, make sure to follow the “Three then Me” rule. The “Three then Me” rule says that you search for your answer regarding the course in at least three other places before emailing me. For example, if you have a question about an assignment, you should consult your syllabus, your grading scale or rubric, or the assignment description on D2L.

Remember, check three sources before emailing me your question. It is very likely you’ll find the answer and not need to email me. If you don’t find the answer and need clarification, feel free to email me. During the week, I will typically respond to your emails within 24-48 hours. Any emails received over the weekend will receive a response no later than Tuesday by noon.

About This Course

This course explores philosophical viewpoints, ethical issues, and pedagogical methods used in experiential and outdoor education. We begin our journey by asking two critical questions: (1) What constitutes an effective education? and (2) What is the role of experience (experiential education) in an effective education? To answer these questions, we will explore the philosophical roots of different methods in outdoor education, encouraging us to refine and reflect upon our beliefs on how best to design educational experiences. The textbook for this course, *Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming*, introduces students to the depth and models for outdoor leaders working in adventure contexts.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, you should be able to

- identify your personal assumptions and beliefs regarding ideal educational practices
- identify the philosophical origins and justifications for outdoor education
- identify and understand key definitions used in outdoor education
- understand the historical development of outdoor education
- understand key trends in the field of outdoor education
- understand the variety of outdoor education programs currently operating in the United States and around the world
- have a basic understanding of key pedagogical principles and methods used in outdoor education
- understand the use of risk as an educational tool in outdoor education
- understand typical ethical dilemmas faced in conducting outdoor education programs and how these dilemmas can be practically resolved
- identify and justify your philosophy of education.

ELEMENTS OF THE COURSE

Physical Challenge-Mandatory

- Participate in two approved adventure activities. A key element of the adventure activity is working in a group of 8-16 people in a processed activity.
- After completing the activities, you will be required to write a 3–5-page reflective paper on the experience. The paper is intended to allow you to reflect on connections between the activities and your understanding of experiential education.
- ***No use of AI will be accepted. If you use Grammarly or any other grammar checker, you must submit your original rough draft.**
- The activity will be a challenge course and an outdoor recreation trip.
- If you cannot attend due to a game, you will need to meet with me by mid-semester.

Required Technology Skills

All students must have internet access and be able to: send and receive e-mail, create, send and receive Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher or PowerPoint documents; use Google documents, sites & slides, use Desire 2 Learn portal through MSUTexas portal, and ZOOM Meeting platform for class assignments/meetings & presentations, post to discussion boards, appropriately use internet links and websites such as Google Docs, Sites, Slides, YouTube, etc.

Taking an online class requires access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. You are responsible for having (or having access to) a working computer in this class.

****Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings and the

Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, a student helpdesk is available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to liability and resource limitations; however, they can help you connect to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Student Email Usage

Students are required to use their D2L email address for all correspondence during this course. Check that your D2L email address is listed in your D2L Personal Information. Using your D2L address ensures your privacy. If you have a different email account, you can forward your D2L email to that account, but I will only send and respond to emails within the D2L portal or from an MSUTexas address. Please make sure to include your name and course number on any email that you send. You must check your D2L email at least two (4) days per week.

When emailing, please include the class number and a detailed explanation of the purpose of the email. Also, do not email any assignments.

Syllabus

The syllabus provides general information about the course, assignment expectations and requirements, and assessment information. It is subject to change based on the progress of the course.

D2L Dropbox

A drop box will be created for each assignment requiring submission. Google Sites will be used for added information and directions for assignments, you will need to have a Google Account.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENT

Date	Assignment	Points
3/23-28	Week One-Evidence (1) Philosophy (2) Syllabus/Introduction/Welcome	NA
March 25	Video Introduction	20
March 27	Non-Negotiables	100
3/30 & April 1	Meet in WEST GYM-tennis shoes, and activity clothes.	NA
April 6-11	Week Two- Philosophy (2) History (4) Week Three Conditional Leadership (10)	NA
April 10	Conditional Leadership	100
April 13-18	Ethics (3) Safety & Risk (6)	NA
April 17	Group Dynamics/Infographic	100

Date	Assignment	Points
4/ 20-25	Communication Meet in classroom/WEST in activewear	NA
April 24th	Two-Way Model of Communication	100
TBA	Field Trip Week April 20-24	300
May 1	Feedback Paper & Video	100
May 4-9	Initiatives & Processing	NA
May 7	Challenge Course Reflection	100
n/a	Total	920

FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION

Please note that you must earn 348 points (60%) to pass the class.

Letter Grade	Percent	Point Range
A	90%	828-920
B	80%	736-827
C	70%	644-735
D	60%	432-643
F	<60%	<642

OTHER CLASS POLICIES:

Course Continuity During Severe Weather:

Since this is an online course, our class activities should not be impacted by typical weather events. However, in the unlikely case of a major winter storm that causes regional power outages, assignment deadlines would be postponed until electricity and internet access are restored. If forecasts predict a high possibility of such a severe weather occurrence, I encourage completing work early as a precaution against potential technology disruptions. But barring a significant outage event, we will maintain normal course operations even during winter storm weather. Please reach out with any questions or concerns related to weather issues that could affect participation.

Covid

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbot's executive orders, we highly encourage eligible community members to get vaccinated. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional.

Professional Expectations

Students are expected to behave academically, interpersonally, professionally, and collaboratively consistently with standards set by the West College of Education. “By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a ‘limited right’ in all intellectual property created by the student for this course. The ‘limited right’ shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes.”” Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Student Honor Creed “As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so”. You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum of your failing the assignment a possible failing grade in the course, and may result in additional, more severe disciplinary measures. This includes improper citation of sources, using another student’s work and any other form of academic misrepresentation. When in doubt on collaboration, citations, or any issue.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2025-26](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Students are expected to behave academically, interpersonally, professionally, and collaboratively in a manner consistent with standards set by the West College of Education.

AI

As a participant in the Kinesiology and Sport and Leisure program, your engagement in research and study related to the course topics is specifically crafted to equip you with the essential knowledge needed for success in your professional role. Relying solely on artificial intelligence to generate papers, followed by its application in examples, raises a fundamental question about the depth of your own learning. True learning occurs when we actively engage with the material, conduct independent research, compose our own papers, and then apply the acquired knowledge to relevant examples. This active involvement in the learning process enhances understanding and prepares you to make well-informed decisions effectively. Therefore, I encourage you to take charge of your research, write your own papers, and apply your learning to real-world scenarios, fostering a comprehensive and personal grasp of the subject matter. I will not accept AI generated or Plagiarized work. It will result in a zero or a failure of the course.

***If you use any grammar program, such as Grammarly to help with your writing, you must provide the rough draft in D2I Dropbox.** AI-generated content is not permitted in this course unless explicitly specified by the instructor. If AI-generated content is allowed for specific assignments, students must disclose this fact and provide appropriate attribution to the AI tool used. Most importantly, you must provide citations and references for all generative AI information used. Since generative AI information is not reproducible, you should save copies of your obtained information and include those documents in appendices attached to your paper or project. Full citation information can be found at the APA How to Cite link. [How to Cite ChatGPT](#).

Plagiarism Statement

“By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a ‘limited right’ in all intellectual property created by the student for this course. The ‘limited right’ shall include but shall not be limited to the right

to reproduce the student's work product to verify originality, authenticity, and educational purposes.”
[Student Handbook/Academic Dishonesty](#)

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Conduct](#).

Plagiarism is the use of another's thoughts, words, ideas, or line (including text written by a generation system or artificial intelligence tool) in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a list on the Reference Page)-whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Kinesiology and Sports and Leisure Department Chair and the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and goes against the principles of integrity and originality that are essential in an educational setting. In this course, we uphold a zero-tolerance policy towards plagiarism and using AI-generated content without proper attribution. All students must understand and adhere to this policy to maintain the academic integrity of the course.

Self-plagiarism refers to submitting work for credit that is the same or substantially similar to work prepared or submitted for another course without appropriate citation. This includes reusing previous assignments, papers, presentations, or other submissions without instructor approval. Self-plagiarism gives the impression of original work when in fact the content has already been submitted for assessment elsewhere.

Any instance of plagiarism, AI generated content, and self-plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action per the Academic Integrity Policy outlined in the [Student Handbook-2025-26](#).

By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge and agree to comply with this plagiarism and AI-generated content policy, understanding the importance of academic integrity in our learning community.

Senate Bill 11

Senate Bill 11, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, per state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at: [Campus Carry](#)

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you

experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to proving and strengthening an education, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at [Online Reporting Form](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-46108. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Website](#)

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video

entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed.

DSS Contact Information:

Disability Support Services

Student Wellness Center

Phone: 940-397-4140

Email: disabilityservices@msutexas.edu

Website: [DSS Webpage](#)

MSU Counseling Center

Phone: 940-397-4618

*Confidential counseling services for enrolled MSU students. Services are covered by student fees thus a student does not pay when coming to the center.

LOCATION

Located inside the Bruce and Graciela Student Wellness Center

2609 Midwestern Parkway

Wichita Falls, TX, 76308

HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC.

Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the

unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on university property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

References:

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Aristotle. (1999). *Nicomachean ethics* (Irwin T., Trans., 2nd ed.). Hackett.

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Garvey D. (1995). A history of AEE. In Warren K., Sakofs M. S., Hunt J. (Eds.), *Theory of experiential education* (3rd ed., pp. 75–83). Kendall/Hunt.

Hahn K. (1960). [Outward bound](#).

Hunt J. (1999). Philosophy of adventure education. In Miles J. C., Priest S. (Eds.), *Adventure programming* (pp. 115–122). Venture.

Leather, Mark. ["Outdoor Adventure and Social Theory."](#) *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*, vol. 14, no. 3, 2014, pp. 265–266.

Owen, Renee, et al. ["Applying Behavior Analysis to Team-Building in Outdoor Learning."](#) *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*, 2022, pp. 1–14.

Plato. (1987). *The Republic* (Lee H. D. P., Trans. 2nd ed.). New York: Penguin.

Sherman N. (1991). [The fabric of character: Aristotle's theory of virtue](#). Oxford University Press.