

Syllabus: Environmental Apprenticeship Aspen Center for Environmental Studies

I.	Course prefix and number	
II.	Course Title	Environmental Apprenticeship
III.	Credit	1 undergraduate credit
IV.	Dates/ Times	June-August 2010 8:30 am – 4 pm each day for 2 weeks two-week commitment
V.	Instructor	Sarah Schmidt
VI.	Office Location	Aspen Center for Environmental Studies 100 Puppy Smith Street Aspen, CO 81611
VII.	Office Hours	By appointment
VIII.	Telephone	970-925-5756

IX. Course Description

The course is designed to introduce high school and college students to environmental education and environmental studies careers by apprenticing at Aspen Center for Environmental Studies. Students will assist in teaching environmental education programs, read and discuss articles, write daily journal entries, conduct individual research, and create a portfolio of work.

X. Course Objectives

Upon Completion of the Apprenticeship, students should be able to...

1. Discuss education terms and concepts such as multiple intelligences, place-based education, and flow learning.
2. Investigate an individual topic, conduct field research, summarize, and present results.
3. Name a variety of careers in the environmental field.
4. Identify common local plants and animals.

XI. Texts, Readings, and Instructional Resources

Class materials: journal materials, handouts, positive attitude.

Supplemental Reading:

Available at ACES for check out before and during apprenticeship.

Best Local Field Guides:

Wild at Heart: A Field Guide to Plants, Birds, and Mammals of Snowmass, Aspen, and the Colorado Rocky Mountains by Janis Huggins
Mushrooms of Colorado: and the Southern Rocky Mountains by Vera Evenson

General Environmental Education Classics:

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv

Place Based Education: Connecting Classroom and Communities by David Sobel

Sharing Nature With Children by Joseph Cornell

ACES houses an extensive natural history, environmental studies, and education library. Instructor will direct student to books about any specific area of interest.

XII. Assignments, Evaluation Procedures and Grading Policy

1. Apprenticeship Participation. Attendance is mandatory for the entire course. Students are expected to participate fully in all the apprenticeship activities, including assisting in a weeklong children's environmental education class.
2. Journal. Students will make daily journal entries to reflect on that day's learning and experience.
3. Research Project Portfolio. Students will individually research a topic and complete a portfolio to summarize their research and experience at ACES.
4. Presentation. Students will make a 5-10 minute presentation of their portfolio and research.
5. Evaluations. The instructor will assess the student's apprentice participation, daily journals, and research project portfolio based on a rubric.

6. Assignment Breakdown

Attendance	10%
Apprenticeship Participation	30%
Daily journal entries	10%
Research Project Portfolio	45%
Presentation	5%

Grading

Grade Distribution

Students may choose either a Pass/Fail grade or a letter grade as outlined below:

Pass/Fail 80% -100%= Pass 79% and below= Fail

94% -100%	A
85% - 93%	B
74% - 83%	C
64% - 73%	D
63% and below	F

Schedule:

The environmental apprenticeship is a 2-week course (10 days). Instructor and student may schedule the 2 weeks any time June through August 2010 as predetermined.

Week 1. The focus of the first week is environmental education. The student will assist in teaching a weeklong children's environmental education class. The student will also read

handouts on multiple intelligences, student learning, environmental education, and more. The hands-on experience, readings, and journal reflection will provide the opportunity for the student to explore the field of environmental education.

Week 2. The second week, the student will pick an environmental topic to explore in depth. The instructor and student will develop an individual research plan to delve into the chosen topic. The student will also participate in a sampling of the programs available at ACES, including a visit to Rock Bottom Ranch to gain experience in sustainable agriculture education, observation of handling of the resident birds of prey to use in educational programs, participation in a Naturalist Field School and/or Naturalist Hike to learn about local plants and animals. Upon completion of the 2 weeks, the student will present their apprenticeship portfolio at ACES.