NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
RPK 125 – RESOURCE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION (3 CR.)

Course Description

Includes overview of the history of the outdoor education movement. Concentrates on the basic knowledge and skills necessary to design, implement and present interpretive programs and develop an outdoor educational tools. Includes design and construction of interpretive displays using varied materials and all forms of presentation media (print, audio-visual, and computer software). Requires students to create and present an interpretive program or outdoor education instructional tool. Lecture 2 hours. Laboratory 2 hours. Total 4 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

To give the student basic skills in both interpretive and outdoor education programs and services in the recreation and park setting. If it’s only basic, then I’d say its 100 level.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisite at NOVA is ENG 111 and completion of or concurrent enrollment in a CST course.

Course Objectives

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

- List and compare the goals and objectives of interpretation.
- List and compare the goals and objectives of outdoor education.
- Write interpretive statements.
- Develop an interpretive program and present this program to a group.
- Develop an interpretive display.
- Use the following interpretive materials:
  1. Photography
     a. Audio-visual equipment
     b. Printing, layout and lettering
- Apply the management principals and programs of a Nature Center.
- Apply the management principals and programs of an historical site.
- Apply the management principals and programming for school sites and resident outdoor education programs.
- Develop an outdoor education teaching unit.
- Apply the plot study concept of outdoor education programming.

Major Topics to be Included

a. Goals and objectives of interpretation and outdoor education
b. Nature center programming and management
c. Historical site programming and management
d. Outdoor education organization and programming:
   1. School site
   2. Resident
e. Interpretive materials, their use and application
f. Outdoor education teaching units
g. Site visitations