Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation

Date: March 7, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 190

Course Name: Conservation Field Camp

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

Field Camp is designed to provide one week of conservation field experiences. Emphasis will be on fish, wildlife, and forest management techniques; conservation field studies and investigations; field natural history; outdoor recreation skills; and rustic conservation construction.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in taking field notes and journaling their experiences. (Professional Competency)
2. Demonstrate ethical handling techniques for fish, birds and small mammals. (Citizenship, Ethics and Values)
3. Practice basic field skills in fisheries, wildlife, rustic construction, forestry and wetlands. (Professional Competency)

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

Field camp is required for A.A.S. Natural Resources Conservation, A.A.S. Natural Resources Conservation: Law Enforcement and A.S. Environmental Studies students. The course may also be taken by non-majors as a general elective.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

- writing
- oral communications
- reading
- mathematics
- critical thinking
- computer literacy
- ethics/values
- citizenship
- global concerns
- information resources
III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Taxonomic field guides, Natural Resources Inventory of Warren Cutler Scout Camp, field journal and appropriate field clothing. Other items such as compasses, binoculars, camping equipment and supplies can be supplied by the Conservation department.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar ...):

Students are divided into small groups for each activity. A brief introduction to each activity is given to emphasize proper field techniques and safety considerations. Each activity includes actual hands-on field experiences such as boat and stream electro-shocking, rustic construction, wetland sampling techniques, live trapping and processing of small mammals, mist netting song birds and forest mensuration. Evening programs include an open note quiz, an opportunity to reflect on the day’s activities through journaling and a group discussion or activity.

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

Each student will keep a journal throughout the week of field camp for taking notes. They will use this journal to answer questions on nightly quizzes that cover the day’s content. They will also reflect on each day’s activity in a graded writing assignment. (proficiency in taking notes and journaling – professional competency)

Each student will be graded on performance of the basic field skills in each content area, with a focus on their general participation, their use of the proper handling techniques for any living organisms involved and the proper use of tools. (ethics / values, citizenship and professional competency)

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Fisheries Techniques
Forest Mensuration & Ecology
Field Identification Techniques
Limnological Sampling
Chainsaw & Sawmill Operation
Rustic Construction
Wetlands Ecology
Small Mammal Trapping and Processing (live traps)
Song Bird Capture Techniques and Banding