Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation

Date: July 21, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: TAX 101

Course Name: Small Mammal Taxidermy

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

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:

This course will provide basic but intensive experience in the use of tools, materials, and techniques in the preparation of actual mounts. Students will prepare several mounts, partake in demonstrations, and specialize in one type of specimen preparation.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Demonstrate skill with the tools and equipment used for mounting small mammals. (professional competency)
2. Skin, flesh and mount small mammals in an appropriate and artistic manner. (professional competency)
3. Research natural positions, colors, and characteristics of living specimens to ensure accuracy and realistic mounts. (information resources)

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

This course is a requirement for students in the Taxidermy Certificate Program. It may be taken as a general elective by students in other degree programs.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

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

Types of Course Materials:

Students will purchase the tools and forms necessary for the preparation of small mammal mounts. The Conservation Department will provide the supplies and large equipment required.

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

This is a hands-on course; however, lecture, demonstrations and class participation are an important part of the course. Applicable films are also incorporated into the course.

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

Each student will be assessed on the presentation and artistic quality of two completed small mammal mounts. The two mounts must represent small mammals in different positions. Specific emphasis will be placed on anatomical accuracy and pelt quality. (professional competency, information resources).

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

Care of Specimens
Small Mammal Skinning
Pelt Tanning
Preparation of Forms
Mouth Sculpture Techniques
Pelt Grooming
Airbrushing and painting of Soft Parts

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