



CALL OF THE WILD

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Call of the Wild utilizes a wide range of literature and media, challenging students to continually reexamine their relationship with nature. Major attention will be paid to assessing the role that nature does or should play in modern life. Texts include novels, films, essays, stories, poems, artwork, and music. Writing assignments include critical analysis, narrative reflection, and field journaling. All reading and analysis for Call of the Wild require an introspective spirit of philosophical inquiry and the ability to make connections and articulate common themes.

In addition to analyzing and responding to literature, students are expected to participate in experiential activities that take place within wilderness settings. A day hike in nearby rural Connecticut extends the students' appreciation of the images often utilized in nature writing, such as old stone walls, the New England farm, trees, beaver lodges, and wilderness sounds. Students are afforded the opportunity to step out of a busy routine and closely observe the beauty and significance of their own local landscape. The backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail in north-west Connecticut provides an intensive physical and psychological adventure that draws the students together socially, stimulates individual growth, and further motivates interest in the role of wilderness in their own lives. Students are also required to document their independent experiences in nature in their field journals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should:

- further develop their collaborative skills by participating in serious class discussion which demands alert listening and substantive responding.
- identify and articulate their own values and attitudes towards nature – related themes and topics of the course through introspection fostered by ongoing collaborations, their extensive class notes about readings, class discussions, impromptu writing, and formal writing assignments.
- construct a glossary from readings and discussions comprised of vocabulary specific themes of the course.
- develop sophisticated analytical reading skills for fiction and non-fiction that include identification of theme, purpose, and narrative style.
- write well-organized, concise, and well-supported expository essays in nature which incorporate the themes of the course.
- write well-organized, concise, and well-supported narrative essays about their own experiences in nature which reflect an understanding of nature writing and which may be used as the basis for a college essay.
- document and reflect upon independent experiences in local natural settings by keeping a field journal.
- conduct an independent study stemming from the focus questions of the course and deliver an engaging presentation on that project.
- demonstrate a willingness and some ability to participate in all of the experiential components of the course.

UNITS OF STUDY

- Lives Out of Balance
- One Foot In; One Foot Out
- The Listening Point
- Landscape and the Human Story
- The Country Walk
- Wilderness Experience

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- Individual Inquiry

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Summative Assessments: Insert % Here (Minimum of 70%).
Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Papers – 30%)

Formative Assessments: Insert % Here (Maximum of 30%).
Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Quizzes – 50%)

Behavioral Characteristics: Insert % Here (Maximum of 10%)
Insert Categories/Weighting (ie. Particip. - 90%)

Insert Additional Grading Information Here

MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Insert Course Expectations Here

EXTRA HELP

Insert Course Expectations Here

Insert Additional Information Here