Venture Dynamics (Adventure Activities 101), Spring 2015

Class Meeting Time:  March 27 (2:45pm-5:00pm)
March 28 (8:30am-5:00pm)
March 29 (8:30am-5:00pm)
March 31 (1:00pm-2:30pm)

Class Meeting Place: Outdoor Adventure Center
Instructor: Justin Bryant
Assistant Instructors: Outdoor Adventure Staff
E-mail: Justin.bryant@tamuc.edu
Office: Outdoor Adventure Center
Office Phone: 903.886.5849
Office hours: by appointment

Course materials:  Bring all handouts you are given to class every day, along with a pen or pencil.

Attire:  You must wear athletic attire suitable for participating on the Challenge Course. Be sure your clothing is modest. Please be aware that you will be climbing at height being belayed by a person whose job it is to watch you climb. Shorter shorts can make that situation uncomfortable for both parties. Students not dressed appropriately will be considered absent.

Class Description:  
This course is designed to help students understand how participating in outdoor activities can promote lifelong health and wellness. This course will offer the students a wide variety of adventure challenge and leadership activities on the Challenge Course, including initiatives, trust activities, low elements, high elements, and group problems. This course will emphasize a range of topics that include team building exercises, terminology, and conservation.

Objectives:  Students will.....
1. Demonstrate improved self-confidence in individual and group activities.
2. Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively toward the attainment of group goals.
3. Demonstrate the ability to spot fellow student in low & high course activities.
4. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the basic knots and equipment necessary to participate safely in high elements.
5. Demonstrate the basic trust in classmates in matters pertaining to personal safety.
6. Acquire the physical skills necessary to belay, climb, and rappel on an outdoor climbing wall.
7. Have fun and encourage others.

Evaluation:
Participation in activities  50%
Test  25%
Ability to spot/belay/support  15%
Reflection Paper  10%
PARTICIPATION
Class attendance is expected. Due to the progressive nature of the activities planned, students must attend all sessions. There are no provisions for make-ups. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to attend the full weekend!

The participation grade consists of class attendance and general demeanor and attitude while in the class. This should be the easiest part of your grade if you attend all sessions with a good attitude.

WRITTEN TEST
The test will cover information covered in the class and in the study guide, such as knot tying, recognizing equipment, challenge course terminology, etc. Your written test will be multiple-choice, true-false, matching, fill-in the blank and short answer. It will have fewer than 50 questions. There may also be a demonstration part of the test.

If you cannot take the exam due to illness, injury, or family emergency, the instructor must be notified prior to the exam. Students will be required to present appropriate documentation for missing a scheduled exam. All make-up exams will be scheduled as the need arises.

ABILITY TO SPOT/BELAY/SUPPORT
Students will learn how to belay someone on a high element as well as proper spotting technique. All students will be expected to participate in belaying classmates while they take part in the high elements as well as provide proper spotting for others while participating in low elements.

REFLECTION PAPER
Write a short reflection paper describing the class experience. Discuss what was learned and describe any personal growth that took place. The paper should be a minimum of two double spaces typewritten pages. The paper is worth 10% of the total course and the equivalent of a "letter grade" if not turned in. The paper will be due to the instructor by Friday, April 10. The paper must be e-mailed to justin.bryant@tamuc.edu.

Class attendance is expected. Due to the progressive nature of the activities planned, students must attend all sessions. There are no provisions for make-ups.

My grading policy:

At the end of the semester, I will assign your earned letter grade according to the schedule below:

A= 90 and above
B= 80-89.9
C= 70-79.9
D= 60-69.9
F= 59.9 and below

NOTHING can be done to change your final grade once it is assigned. (no extra credit, extra assignments, retaking tests, etc). Multiple opportunities are given to students to earn their course grade, and I suggest that YOU take advantage of every opportunity to make the highest grade possible. In other words, attend class EVERY DAY and do the EXTRA CREDIT!
Bonus points will be awarded for the following events:

a. Five points may be earned by participating in any climbing competition sponsored by a university outdoor program. There are plenty of programs who offer a competition this semester. Be watching advertisements at the Rock Wall. The competition gives you a chance to experience the local and regional rock climbing community in a relaxed setting. Competition is a loose term for these events. All participants usually encourage fellow climbers, and a fun time is had by all. Additionally, all participants are entered in a door prize giveaway where a load of substantial gifts are given away (i.e., ropes, climbing shoes, bags, and other climbing equipment).

b. One point may be earned by attending an educational clinic provided by the Outdoor Adventure program. Prerequisites might be required for a clinic, plan accordingly. Watch for announcements at the MRC, as well as in class this semester. Limit three points via clinics.

c. A maximum of 5 points extra credit may be earned.

d. The LAST day to turn in any extra credit is Friday, May 1. NO EXCEPTIONS!

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change. I will let you know if the schedule changes!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In-class activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/27/14</td>
<td>Syllabus, intro activities to adventure based learning, philosophy &amp; cornerstones of experiential process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/28/14</td>
<td>Icebreakers &amp; Problem-Solving Initiatives</td>
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<td>Low Elements</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/28/14</td>
<td>Low Elements cont'd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/28/14</td>
<td>National Standards, Equipment 101, Knots 101, Belay School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/28/14</td>
<td>High Elements</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3/29/14</td>
<td>High Elements &amp; Reflection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3/31/14</td>
<td>WRITTEN &amp; SKILLS TEST (FINAL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4/10/14</td>
<td>Reflection Paper due by email</td>
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This schedule may change. If you miss class, be sure you talk to someone in the class to find out about any announcement or changes.

**Statement on Student Behavior**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (see Student’s Guide Handbook).
**ADA statement**
Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library Room 132, (903) 886-5835.

**Course Policies**
1. Students are expected to be in class, ready to participate, on time.
2. **Class attendance is expected.** Due to the progressive nature of the activities planned, students must attend all sessions. There are no provisions for make-ups.
3. Any student missing an exam or assignment without prior arrangement will receive a score of zero.
4. You MUST check your e-mail regularly in case I need to communicate with you. I will not e-mail you junk, and I request that you do the same for me. (your leo account)
5. While you are in class, I expect you to participate. Do not come to class and expect to sit to the side. Activities are designed so that everyone can participate. You must be on time. When you are late, it disrupts the flow of the class. While in class, you must refrain from anything that is not class-related. **CELL PHONES AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT.** This is a zero-tolerance policy. (Thanks!) If you use a cell phone, iPod, etc. in class (or if your phone rings), you will lose 1 point per incident (off your final grade). Turn it off!
6. **DUE DATES:** The due dates listed for assignments are the LAST chance to submit them. I DO NOT accept late assignments.
7. If you have a question or concern, talk to me. I am here to help. If you need to reach me and I am not in my office, e-mail me.