

NR 368/568 Oral Interpretation Methods, 3 cr. Syllabus – Fall 2021

Course Schedule

Lecture: Weds. 3:00-3:50 p.m.– TNR 120

Discussions:

Sec. 1: Thurs. 11:00 a.m.- 12:50 p.m.—TNR 354 (Espe)

Sec. 3: Thurs. 11:00 a.m.- 12:50 p.m. – TNR 464 (Somerville)**

****For the first four weeks of the semester, Sec. 1 and 3 will be combined in TNR 464.**

Sec. 2: Thurs. 2:00-3:50 p.m—TNR 255 (Espe)

Instructors

Megan Espe
Environmental Interpretation Instructor
TNR 176
715-346-4509
mespe@uwsp.edu

Stephanie Somerville
Graduate Assistant
Schmeeckle Reserve
715-346-4992
ssomervi@uwsp.edu

Drop-in Hours

Megan is available for Zoom drop-in hours from 11-11:50 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. See Canvas for the link to join. An RSVP is recommended to ensure I'm available. I'm also happy to meet outside these times, including in-person outdoor meetings. Please e-mail mespe@uwsp.edu

Stephanie is available by appointment. Please contact her at ssomervi@uwsp.edu to arrange a meeting.

Required Textbooks

Buchholz, J., Lackey, B., Gross, M., & Zimmerman, R. (2015). *The Interpreter's Guidebook: Techniques for Programs and Presentations*, 4th ed. Stevens Point, WI: UW-SP Foundation. (provided in class)

Tilden, Freeman. (2007). *Interpreting our heritage*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (required purchase)

Course Overview

In this course, you will learn principles and verbal techniques to communicate the values of natural history and cultural features to visitors at parks, recreation areas, museums, and other institutions.

Learning Outcomes

1. You will be able to explain what personal interpretation is and identify the principles and concepts of effective personal interpretation programs.
2. You will be able to recognize and describe the spectrum of personal interpretation programs, the fundamental structure of any interpretive program type, and develop an effective theme and messages for use in an interpretive program.
3. You will be able to create and deliver personal interpretation programs such as interpretive talks, guided walks, and illustrated talks.
4. You will recognize the benefits of and be able to conduct effective interpretive program evaluation.

Grading Procedure

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D+	67-69%
B-	80-82%	D	60-66%
		F	< 60

Learning Activities

Your assignments include the following:

Assignment	Points
Guidebook readings	
Program planning theme sheets	60 (20 pts x 3)
Interpretive talk	140
Interpretive walk	180
Illustrated talk	180
Attendance, participation, and evaluation of peer programs	180 (20 pts x 9)
PowerPoint tutorial	50
Tilden Journal	50 (10 pts x 5)
Midterm exam	50
Final exam	50
Total	940 pts

**Students enrolled in NRES 568 will complete an additional graduate-level assignment.*

Late Policy

If you have extenuating circumstances that are preventing you from completing work on time, please [contact Megan](#). Unexcused late work will result in a 10 percent deduction of points.

Attendance and Active Class Participation

To develop as a confident, effective, and creative communicator, you must actively participate in the class learning community. We will strive to establish a supportive environment in which all students feel comfortable challenging themselves, knowing that they will receive respectful, honest, and thoughtful input from the class. You will benefit both from giving feedback to others and from reflecting upon how your classmates respond to your own work.

Attending lectures will likely be the single most important factor in determining your performance and grade in the course, so plan to attend every class. During the first eight days of the term, your instructor will take attendance. If you are not in attendance, you may be dropped from the class. You are responsible for dropping any of your enrolled classes.

Professionalism and Student Conduct

Students in the College of Natural Resources are pursuing courses of study that prepare them for careers as natural resources professionals. Thus, CNR students and faculty/staff are expected to exhibit conduct and attitudes appropriate to professionals.

The UWSP Student Affairs office provides guidelines for proper student conduct. See the following link for more information: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Through your studies, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it.

Students suspected of academic misconduct will be asked to meet with the instructor to discuss the concerns. If academic misconduct is evident, procedures for determining disciplinary sanctions will be followed as outlined in the [University System Administrative Code, Chapter 14](#).

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

If accommodations are needed, please inform the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), datctr@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3365.

NRES 368/568: Oral Interpretation Methods Course Schedule *Subject to change: Check Canvas for official schedule and due dates*

Week	Dates	Lectures: Weds. 3 p.m. TNR 120	Disc: Thurs. 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m. (sec. 1&3) or Thurs. 2-3:50 p.m. (sec. 2)	Assignments/Readings
1	Sept. 2		Introductions/Syllabus What is Interpretation? Roots of Heritage Interpretation Tilden's Principles Meaning-Centered Interpretation	<i>Interpreter's Guidebook</i> , Chs. 1 & 2
2	Sept. 8-9	Thematic Interpretation	Interpreting Yourself activity Interpretive Talks	<i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 3 <i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 6 pp. 116-136
3	Sept. 15-16	Creative Interpretive Techniques	Creative Techniques, <i>cont.</i> Questioning Techniques Nonverbal Communication Interpretive Themes review Interpretive Talk Demo	Tilden Journal #1 due Weds. <i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 4 pp. 73-86 <i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 5
4	Sept. 22-23	Interpretation for Diverse Audiences	Gathering Feedback Preparation for Talks	<i>Guidebook</i> , p. 52-53 <i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 10
5	Sept. 29-30	Guided Walk & Tour Techniques	Guided Walk Demo	<i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 7 Tilden Journal #2 due Weds. Grp A talk theme sheets <u>by midnight Thursday</u>
6	Oct. 6-7	Communication as a Foundation/ Dealing with Distractions	Interpretive Talks: Group A	<i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 4, pp. 74-75 and 85-89 Grp B talk theme sheets
7	Oct. 13-14	Midterm Exam Review	Interpretive Talks: Group B	Tilden Journal #3 due Weds. Grp C talk theme sheets
8	Oct. 20-21	Midterm Exam	Interpretive Talks: Group C	Grp A walk theme sheets

Week	Dates	Lectures: Weds. 3 p.m. TNR 120	Disc: Thurs. 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m. (sec. 1&3) or Thurs. 2-3:50 p.m. (sec. 2)	Assignments/Readings
9	Oct. 27-28	Illustrated Talk Techniques	Interpretive Walks: Group A	<i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 6, pp. 137-151 Tilden Journal #4 due Weds. Grp B walk theme sheets
10	Nov. 3-4	Illustrated Talk Demo	Interpretive Walks: Group B	Grp C walk theme sheets PowerPoint Tutorial due Weds.
11	Nov. 10-11	Spontaneous Interpretation	Interpretive Walks: Group C	<i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 8 Tilden Journal #5 due Weds. Grp A illustrated theme sheets
12	Nov. 17-18	Interpretation for Children	Illustrated Talks: Group A	Grp B illustrated theme sheets due by Thanksgiving <i>Guidebook</i> , Ch. 9
13	Nov. 24-25	No Class: Thanksgiving		
14	Dec. 1-2	Live-Animal Programs Audience-Centered Interpretation	Illustrated Talks: Group B	<i>Guidebook</i> , pp. 109-111 Grp C illustrated theme sheets Readings TBD
15	Dec. 8-9	Final Exam Review	Illustrated Talks: Group C	
16	Finals Week	Final Exam: Thurs., Dec. 16, 12:30-2:30 p.m.		