

Intro to Expedition Kayaking 2014

1-Credit

Instructor-Frank Olive

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May 30th-June 7th

Field trip fee: \$395

Course Meetings

Classroom- Outdoor Adventures Office

Friday 5/30 5:30-7:30pm

Classroom- Outdoor Adventures Office

Saturday 5/31 9am-5pm

Field Trip- Birch Creek Float

Sunday 6/1-Saturday 6/7

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the art of expedition tripping with inflatable kayaks. We will float down Birch Creek as it flows out of the White Mountains and heads down towards the Yukon. This float is 126 miles of mostly Class I and II water with one Class III section that can be run or portaged. Birch Creek is a National Wild and Scenic River which starts as a quick narrow stream and becomes slow meandering river as it heads towards the Yukon flats. The students will be involved with all aspects of planning and executing this awesome wilderness trip. Food and transportation is included in the field fee.

Course Goals

After this course students should have a good understanding of the planning and execution of a wilderness float trip in Alaska. This class will also help develop a good sense of judgment for future float trips. Students will learn about; camp selection, navigation, bear safety, leave no trace ethics and food choices and preparation in the wilderness.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to plan a route and put together the logistics of their own kayaking float trips. Students will become proficient in different aspects of paddling loaded inflatable kayaks including; avoiding obstacles, reading water, scouting rapids, boat maintenance, and efficient paddle strokes. After this course students will be able to navigate on a river with a map, compass and GPS. Students will know the Leave No Trace wilderness principles. Students will be able minimize their risk of a negative bear encounter by practicing bear safe procedures.

Appropriate Student Background

There are no prerequisites for this course; however, enrollees must be in adequate physical condition to paddle a kayak 5-9 hours a day, and to carry their gear and boats for short distances. Students must be willing to; travel in inclement weather, have wet feet, drag their boats through shallow water, deal with lots of bugs, and travel through river rapids of up to Class II.

Equipment

Outdoor Adventures will provide: boats, paddles, dry suits, neoprene gloves, neoprene boots, dry bags, tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, stoves, and pots. Students will need to have clothing that is appropriate for being outside in the Arctic in late July.

Instructional Methods

The course will use both classroom discussion and field learning. The classroom discussion will be prior to the field trip. During the field trip, the instructor will discuss potential situations and challenges as well as demonstrate skills to be mastered by the students. The students will then have time to learn/practice those skills through application by active participation in boating. The students will have a final scenario based on the skills learned in the class.

Grading

This is a pass/fail course.

Trip Preparation 25%

Field Scenarios (boat safety, campsite selection, river reading, leave no trace, etc.) 25%

Field Notebooks 25%

Participation in the expedition experience 25%

70%- will be considered a passing grade

Grading Rubric for Expedition Kayaking

	5 (Excellent)	4 (Good)	2-3 (Fair)	0-1 (Poor)
Trip Preparation	Student has their personal gear kit for the trip together, organized and complete. Student works hard to make sure that the food, logistics and group gear are thoroughly prepared	Student has most of their personal gear together. Student actively participates in food shopping, logistics and group gear preparation	Student has an incomplete , or unorganized personal gear kit. They don't do their share of the pre-trip preparations with the group food and gear.	Student has not taken the necessary steps to get any of their gear together. They are absent from the trip preparation or don't do anything to make the logistics for the trip happen
Field Scenarios	Student fully grasps the concepts presented in LNT, navigation, river reading and other field lessons and can then implement them on their own	Student has a good grasp of the field concepts that are presented and can demonstrate these concepts with a little help	Student has a partial understanding of the different field scenarios and has trouble demonstrating any of those lessons.	Student has no grasp of the field concept lesson that are presented and can't demonstrate any of them without significant help
Field Notebook	Student fully utilizes the field note book for taking notes and checking lists before the trip, thoughts and reflections in the field and also has notes taken during the field scenarios	Student takes some notes in the notebook about the trip prep and lesson and also writes some reflections while out on the trip.	Student has a notebook but doesn't use it much	Student doesn't have a field notebook
Participation in the Expedition Experience	Student engages with the group in a positive manner. They pitch in and do more than their share of the camp chores. They also are encouraging and patient with other members of the group	Students are positive and helpful most of the time. They do their share of the camp chores and participate in the decisions that the group makes	Student is sometimes unengaged or negative with other members of the group. They only participate in some of the group discussions and mainly do camp chores that benefit themselves directly.	Student is not engaged with the group at all. Never does any camp chores and is negative, sullen and makes no effort to resolve any issues within the group

Course Material

There is no text book. Each Student will need to have a field notebook and pencil for the course.

Course Assignments

Students will be expected use the notebook to create a future reference for backcountry float travel. This should include: Notes about gear, notes about food choices including likes/dislikes and amounts, daily distances and times, route hints, general reminder notes, and reflections about the trip (I.E. why you are there?) This notebook can also contain references and helpful hints such as navigation reminders

Risk Tolerance

Due to the nature of outdoor travel there are certain inherent risks in this class. Acceptable risks include but are not limited too; river currents, waves and hydraulics, natural and manmade obstacles in the river, sweepers, logjams, high and low water, and getting wet while on the trip. We will wear PFD's at all times on the river and drysuits and helmets when appropriate. Conditions may include below freezing temperatures, thunderstorms, rain, sleet and high winds. Driving risks may include slick roads, poor visibility and wildlife. Alaska is a wild place - you need to take ultimate responsibility for your own safety as only you can

Students with Disabilities

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. The instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. Please inform the instructor of any disabilities during the first class session.