

Projects WILD/WILD Aquatic/Learning Tree On-line Course Syllabus/Outline March 1 – May 2, 2010

Facilitator

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Emails checked daily, Monday through Friday

Course Information

This course uses the national the national, award-winning *Projects WILD*, *WILD Aquatic*, and *Learning Tree* activity guides to help educators integrate natural resources concepts into their curriculum. A vast array of additional resources are included to provide Iowa specific background information. All materials are correlated to National Education Standards and are being aligned to the Iowa Core Curriculum, Characteristics of Effective Instruction, and Every Learner Inquires.

Students completing this course will:

1. Be acquainted with the course materials and philosophies behind them.
2. Experience a variety of teaching and learning strategies.
3. Become more knowledgeable about Iowa's natural resources and issues facing them.
4. Be comfortable using activities from the materials, and will be able to successfully use these to meet their specific teaching needs.
5. Be acquainted with a variety of additional resources to enhance their personal knowledge of Iowa's natural resources and issues facing them.

Course Requirements

The course is arranged on a weekly basis – Monday through Sunday. Each week you will have a new Module of required readings, resources and references, assignments, and occasional guest speakers. Assignments will be available at 12:00 a.m. on Mondays and must be completed by 11:00 p.m. on Sunday. You will only have access to the current Module. (See the Assignment Schedule, page 3 of this document, for a complete list of assignments.) If you are unable to complete assignments by the due date, email your instructor immediately. Ten percent per day will be deducted for late assignments.

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, email the instructor.

Participation Policy

Routine and active participation is expected of all students. You are required to spend at least 3 hours per week on-line completing assignments and participating in group discussions. If special circumstances or emergency situations arise that will affect your course involvement, please let your instructor know immediately.

Reasonable Accommodation

Students who have a documented disability or special needs should notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course.

Course Materials

Project WILD K-12 Activity Guide (provided on course CD)

An Iowa Supplement to Project WILD (provided on course CD)

Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Activity Guide (provided on course CD)

An Iowa Supplement to Project WILD Aquatic (provided on course CD)

Project Learning Tree PreK – 8 Activity Guide

An Iowa Supplement to Project Learning Tree (provided on course CD)

Learning Resources for *Project WILD Aquatic* (posters, handouts, CD)

Navigating the Course CD

To start browsing the content on the CD, double click the “start.pdf” file in the top-level directory of the CD. This is the Main Menu page. The Main Menu is a good place to start your exploration of the CD - you can choose which *Supplement* or *Activity Guide* you want or check out the “Additional Materials.”

The files on the Course CD are linked, much like web pages. There are two types of links:

- **Red links** take you to other resources on the CD. These include links to Units within each Supplement and between Supplements, activities, and appendices.
- **Blue links** take you to relevant websites, if you are connected to the internet.

The quickest way to move through the *Project WILD Aquatic* or *Project WILD Activity Guides* is to use the bookmarks on the left hand side. The activities are listed alphabetically within the three sections. The appendices are also arranged alphabetically. If you accidentally close the bookmark tab, click on "Bookmarks" and the tab will reopen.

It's easy to follow links until you are thoroughly lost among the many documents on the Course CD. To get back to the Main Menu (start.pdf), click on the DNR logo in the upper right corner of each page.

Equipment and Software Requirements

To complete this course you will need a computer with:

- Window or Mac operating system with a WebCT supported browser*
- Access to the Internet (equipment and software)
- Word processing software
- Modem: minimum 56K; high bandwidth modem better (cable, DSL, satellite)
- CD-ROM or DVD drive
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 (or higher)
- Java Web Start browser plug-in
- Printer (to make copies of your work, downloaded items, etc.)

Adobe Acrobat Reader Download

Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 can be loaded to your computer from the *Projects WILD/WILD Aquatic/PLT* online CD (“installers” folder). You can also download *Reader* from the [Adobe web site](#).

Most of the files on your course CD are pdf files. You will need *Reader* to view them. These files can be viewed whether you are using a Mac or PC. The type of word processing program (Word, Works, Word Perfect, etc.) doesn't matter either.

Assignment Schedule

Dates	Required Readings	Resources & References	Assignments
Module 1 3/01 – 3/07 Getting Started	Class Tips How to Use the Course CD Overview of <i>Projects WILD/ WILD Aquatic</i> Walk Through the Guides/ Supplements	Characteristics of a Successful Distance Learner Core Rules of Netiquette Essential Concepts & Skill Sets of the Iowa Core Curriculum Tips for Using Search Engines WebCT Tips	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce Yourself 2. Complete the <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Introductory Activity 3. Complete the Technology/On-line Environment Quiz 4. Complete the WALK Through <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Quiz
Module 2 3/08 – 3/14 <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i>	<i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 1: Iowa's Waters</i> <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 2: Aquatic Life</i>	ABCs of Website Evaluation Investigating Your Environment Teaching Materials For Environmental Education Iowa Fish Iowa Waterways Iowa Wetlands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post your <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> activity choice on the “Project WILD Aquatic Activity Choice” Discussion Board. 2. Complete the Credible Web Sites Scavenger Hunt 3. <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 1: Iowa's Waters</i> lesson plans must be posted 4. <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 2: Aquatic Life</i> lesson plans must be posted
Module 3 3/15 – 3/21 <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i>	<i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 3: The World in a Pond</i> <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 4: People, Land, & Water</i>	Goin’ With the Flow...Involving Students in Hands on Stream Improvement Projects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review posted <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 1: Iowa Waters</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 2. Review posted <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 2: Aquatic Life</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 3. <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 3: The World in a Pond</i> lesson plans must be posted 4. <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 4: People, Land, & Water</i> lesson plans must be posted 5. Participate in a Guest Speaker Discussion

Dates	Required Readings	Resources & References	Assignments
Module 4 3/22 – 3/28 <i>Project WILD</i>	<i>Project WILD Unit 1: Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base</i> <i>Project WILD Unit 2: Iowa's Wildlife Habitats</i>	Adapting to Iowa Iowa Biodiversity Iowa Food Webs Iowa Habitat Loss & Disappearing Wildlife Iowa Insects, Spiders, & Other Invertebrates Iowa Mammals Iowa Nesting Birds Iowa Portrait of the Land Iowa Prairies Iowa Reptiles and Amphibians Misconceptions about Iowa Wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post your <i>Project WILD</i> activity choice on the “Project WILD Activity Choice” Discussion Board. 2. Complete the WALK Through <i>Project WILD</i> Quiz. 3. Complete the <i>Project WILD</i> Introductory Activity. 4. Review posted <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 3: The World in a Pond</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 5. Review posted <i>Project WILD Aquatic Unit 4: People, Land, & Water</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 6. <i>Project WILD Unit 1: Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base</i> lesson plans must be posted 7. <i>Project WILD Unit 2: Iowa's Wildlife Habitats</i> lesson plans must be posted.
Module 5 3/29 – 4/04 <i>Project WILD</i>	<i>Project WILD Unit 3: Wildlife Management</i> <i>Project WILD Unit 4: People & Wildlife</i>	Keeping Iowa Wildlife Wild Iowa Environmental Laws Iowa Wildlife Management Managing Iowa Wildlife White Tailed Deer Managing Iowa Wildlife Wild Turkeys People Communities and their Iowa Environment State Symbols of Iowa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review posted <i>Project WILD Unit 1: Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 2. Review posted <i>Project WILD Unit 2: Iowa's Wildlife Habitats</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. 3. <i>Project WILD Unit 3: Wildlife Management</i> lesson plans must be posted 4. <i>Project WILD Unit 4: People & Wildlife</i> lesson plans must be posted.

Dates	Required Readings	Resources & References	Assignments
Module 6 4/05 – 4/11 <i>Project Learning Tree</i>	Introduction to <i>Project Learning Tree</i> <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 1: Iowa's Forestry Resource Base</i>	Identification of Conifer Trees in Iowa Identification of Hardwood Trees in Iowa Iowa Shrubs and Vines Iowa Soils Iowa Trees Iowa Woodlands Native Woods of Iowa Woodland Invasive Species in Iowa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review posted <i>Project WILD Unit 3: Wildlife Management</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. Review posted <i>Project WILD Unit 4: People & Wildlife</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. Post your <i>Project Learning Tree</i> activity choice on the “<i>Project Learning Tree Activity Choice</i>” Discussion Board Complete the WALK through <i>Project Learning Tree Quiz</i>. Complete the <i>Project Learning Tree</i> Introductory Activity <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 1: Iowa's Forestry Resource Base</i> lesson plans must be posted
Module 7 4/12 – 4/18 <i>Project Learning Tree</i>	<i>Project Learning Tree Unit 2: Life in the Forest</i>	Exploring Environmental Issues Biodiversity Iowa Winter Birds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review posted <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 1: Iowa's Forestry Resource Base</i> lesson plans; post comments to 2 lesson plans. <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 2: Life in the Forest</i> lesson plans must be posted Participate in a Guest Speaker Discussion
Module 8 4/19 – 4/25 <i>Project Learning Tree</i>	<i>Project Learning Tree Unit 3: Cycles and Growth</i> <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 4: People and the Forest</i>	Changing Land Use and Values Conservation Careers in Iowa Iowa's Biological Communities Natural Cycles in Iowa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review posted <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 2: Life in the Forest</i> lesson plans; post comments to 2 lesson plans. <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 3: Cycles & Growth</i> lesson plans must be posted. <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 4: People & the Forest</i> lesson plans must be posted Create a blog posting.
Module 9 4/26 – 5/02 Final Assignments			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review posted <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 3: Cycles and Growth</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. Review posted <i>Project Learning Tree Unit 4: People and the Forest</i> lesson plans; post comments to 1 lesson plan. Complete the Course Evaluation. Final Assignment due

Lesson Plans

You will be assigned three weeks to post lesson plans (1 *Project WILD*, 1 *Project WILD Aquatic*, 1 *Project Learning Tree*) in which your fellow classmates will review and comment to. Each week will be focusing on a different section or sections of the materials. The activity you chose must coincide with the section you are assigned (e.g. *Project WILD Aquatic Unit 1: Iowa's Waters* lesson plans). A list of suggested activities can be found on the last page of each Unit (on the Course CD).

When it's your turn to post a lesson plan to the Discussion Board, you will need the Lesson Plan Format. It is available in three different formats - Word 2007 template (Windows), pdf file, and text file. It can be found in the "Course Information" on the Course Menu or as links on the top of each Module. It is also in the "Course Information" folder on the Course CD.

You must post your lesson plan to the appropriate Discussion Board by the assigned deadline. You may complete your assignments in a word processing program, but you will need to copy and paste your lesson plan to the Discussion Board. See the "Announcements" in Module 1 or the Class Tips for instructions on how to post your lesson plan to the Discussion Board.

Lesson Plan Schedule

Following is a list of who is scheduled to post lesson plans each week.

Project WILD Aquatic Units

Unit 1: Iowa's Waters (Module 2: March 8 - 14)

Unit 2: Aquatic Life (Module 2: March 8 - 14)

Unit 3: The World in a Pond (Module 3: March 15 - 21)

Unit 4: People, Land, & Water (Module 3: March 15 - 21)

Project WILD Units

Unit 1: Iowa's Wildlife Resource (Module 4: March 22 - 28)

Unit 2: Iowa's Wildlife Habitats (Module 4: March 22 - 28)

Unit 3: Wildlife Management (Module 5: March 29 – April 4)

Unit 4: People & Wildlife (Module 5: March 29 – April 4)

Project Learning Tree Units

Unit 1: Iowa's Forestry Resource Base (Module 6: April 5 – 11)

Unit 2: Life in the Forest (Module 7: April 12 – 18)

Unit 3: Cycles & Growth (Module 8: April 19 – 25)

Unit 4: People and the Forest (Module 8: April 19 – 25)

Final Assignment (Integration of Activities)

This is a compilation of work completed through the course. You may complete additional lesson plans, but you may also use plans submitted during the course.

Criteria

- 6 lesson plans: 2 each from *Project WILD*, *Project WILD Aquatic*, and *Project Learning Tree* that you identify for use in your current teaching situation (if not currently teaching – proposed grade level/subject area you have taught or plan to teach)
- Must be submitted in the lesson plan format provided (available in the “Course Information” Module on the Course Menu or in the “Tool Box” on the Course CD).
- Compile your six lesson plans into one document and then post it on the "Final Assignments (Integration of Activities)" Discussion Board by **May 2**. This Discussion Board will be open the entire class, so you can post your final assignment at any time.
- Can include activities already posted to the Discussion Board – yours or your classmates’.
- If others’ postings are used, you **MUST** modify the lesson plan to reflect use in your teaching situation - especially where you will integrate including any modifications, how it meets YOUR standards, etc.

Grading Deductions (200 Total Points)

Failure to meet assignment deadline (- 20 points per day)

Failure to modify others’ activities to your situation (-15 points/activity)

Failure to complete sections of the Lesson Plan Format for each activity:

- General Information – 5 points (15 %)
- Integration of Activity – 13 points (40%)
- Standards, etc. – 15 points (45%)

Course Grading:

Grades will be assigned using the following point system:

A 90-100% (1575 – 1418)

B 80-89% (1417 – 1260)

C 70-79% (1259 – 1103)

D 60-69% (1102 – 945)

F below 945

Activity	Points
Introduce Yourself	50
<i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Introductory Activity	25
Technology/On-line Environment Quiz	25
Walk Through <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Quiz	100
Post <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Activity Choice	25
Credible Web Sites Scavenger Hunt	25
Post <i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Lesson Plan	100
<i>Project WILD Aquatic</i> Lesson Plan Comments (2 weeks/4 comments)	100
Guest Speaker #1 Discussion	50
Post <i>Project WILD</i> Activity Choice	25
Walk Through <i>Project WILD</i> Quiz	100
<i>Project WILD</i> Introductory Activity	25
Post <i>Project WILD</i> Lesson Plan	100
<i>Project WILD</i> Lesson Plan Comments (2 weeks/4 comments)	100
Post <i>Project Learning Tree</i> Activity Choice	25
Walk Through <i>Project Learning Tree</i> Quiz	100
<i>Project Learning Tree</i> Introductory Activity	25
Guest Speaker #2 Discussion	50
Post <i>Project Learning Tree</i> Lesson Plan	100
<i>Project Learning Tree</i> Lesson Plan Comments (3 weeks/6 comments)	150
Blog Posting	50
Course Evaluation	25
Final Assignment (Integration of Activities)	200

Total Points 1575