



| COURSE OUTLINE | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| TERM: Spring 2026 | COURSE NO: REC 156 | |
| INSTRUCTOR: | COURSE TITLE: Natural History for Tourism and Outdoor Recreation | |
| OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL: | SECTION NO(S): | CREDITS: 3.0 |
| OFFICE HOURS: | | |
| COURSE WEBSITE: | | |

Capilano University is named after Chief Joe Capilano (1854–1910), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams. This course may also be offered in mixed-mode or in online format and/or condensed format.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES

None

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Students develop skills to interpret the natural environment of Southwest British Columbia through the application of the principles and concepts of ecology, the identification of flora and fauna, and the interpretation of local ecosystems. A key goal of the course is to increase your awareness, appreciation and curiosity about nature in the field so that your outdoor leadership and guiding skills are enhanced. Contemporary stewardship issues including habitat protection and biodiversity facing Southwest British Columbia are highlighted. The importance of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives is embedded throughout the course content.

COURSE NOTE

None

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

All readings and resources that supplement course topics can be found on the REC 156 eLearn Page.

Optional References:

Pojar, J. and A. MacKinnon. Plants of Coastal British Columbia. B.C. Ministry of Forests and Lone Pine Publishing, 1994.

Cannings, R. and S. Cannings. British Columbia. A Natural History. Greystone Books, 2013.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

| |
|--|
| 1. Apply basic ecological principles and concepts to the interpretation of natural history in the context of operating a tourism or outdoor recreation business, and working as a commercial outdoor guide. |
| 2. Describe the nature and functioning of selected ecological systems of relevance to tourism and outdoor recreation professionals; alpine, temperate rain forest, ocean, estuary, fresh water and other select British Columbia ecosystems. |
| 3. Identify plant and animal species and explain species occurrence in terms of the environments in which they live. |
| 4. Develop skills in interpretation to be used when working as an outdoor guide or leader. |
| 5. Enhance skills through class and field interpretive presentations. |
| 6. Discuss natural history from the perspective of Indigenous knowledge. This includes seeing through the lens of a deeper awareness of ourselves and our interconnectedness to the more-than-human world and other species. |
| 7. Define biodiversity and describe its ecological importance for maintaining our planet's life support systems. |
| 8. Describe the role of tourism and outdoor recreation professionals as leaders in public education, connecting people to the natural world, and the conservation of critical ecosystems . |

COURSE CONTENT

Topics and discussions for REC 156 include:

- Ecological principles and British Columbia ecosystems
- Alpine ecosystems
- Temperate rain forest ecosystems
- Ocean ecosystems
- Fresh water and estuary ecosystems
- Interpretation of the natural environment
- Indigenous knowledge and our interconnection to the more-than-human world
- Species identification
- Biodiversity
- The role of tourism and outdoor recreation professionals in being leaders in education and interpretation to connect people to the natural world and conservation issues

EVALUATION PROFILE

| Assessment | % of Final Grade |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Assignments* | 40-80% |
| Participation & Professionalism** | 0-10% |
| Quizzes/Midterm/Final | 10- 50 |
| TOTAL | 100% |

*This consists of several smaller assignments. No one assignment will be valued at more than 30% of the final grade

**Participation & Professionalism: These grades are based on the consistency, quality, and frequency of contributions to class discussions. Consistency means attending every class, maintaining a positive and respectful presence in the classroom, and actively contributing to discussions on a regular basis. Quality means demonstrating respect for peers and their contributions; listening attentively during lectures and when other students are speaking; and participating in all activities with an open and inquisitive mind.

GRADING PROFILE

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| A+ = 90-100 | B+ = 77-79 | C+ = 67-69 | D = 50-59 |
| A = 85-89 | B = 73-76 | C = 63-66 | F = 0-49 |
| A- = 80-84 | B- = 70-72 | C- = 60-62 | |

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete "I" are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due date listed. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor beforehand.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed labs or other activities may not be able to be accommodated. Please consult with your instructor.

*** Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Instructors may deduct marks for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note-taking only, or when working in groups on tasks assigned by the instructor.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Safe Alert App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information:

<https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;
- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the

University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.