

Fall 2009 FIELD INVESTIGATION AND TEACHING: A PRACTICUM

A field semester course offering of the Audubon Center of the North Woods and Northland College

Instructors –Bryan Wood and the staff of the Audubon Center plus representatives of other significant organizations and charter schools.

Philosophy: It is our belief that the best way for students to acquire knowledge and prepare for challenges in their life and work is to give them real world situations, to guide and facilitate learning, and to allow them a chance to experience success. This belief takes form when we apply the EIC (Environment as an Integrating Context) approach that focuses on project-based, inquiry-style learning that is student-centered and ends in action steps.

The process provides both knowledge and the skills to apply the knowledge. It gives the students an investment in their learning – it provides them with a chance to demonstrate their capabilities in planning, experimentation, and action steps. We hope that we will be creating graduates with skills and leadership for the next steps in their life.

Fall 2009- Field investigations, issues and solutions

Month 1 – Understanding and managing the natural world for all species.



In this context the students will examine certified forest, map the center landscape, and explore management of the land that emphasizes the need for increasing natural biodiversity, which reflects on the historic natural landscape. We will work with the certifying agencies (Forest Stewardship Council and Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy). It will be an active month of exploring and learning about the natural landscape, researching possibilities and talking with a variety of experts to gain a variety of opinions. You will explore coniferous and deciduous forests and learn about their complex ecosystems. This month also includes a trip to the BWCA.

Month 2 - Work with students from varied backgrounds in a teaching setting.

- Real opportunities to impart knowledge, explore outdoor curriculum and test theories of learning and leadership.
- There will be at least 8 elementary schools involved in this month of field experiences. The students will observe, critique, and lead classes.

Month 3 – Sustainable Living, Renewable Energy.



Students will work on a variety of projects that include:

- Visit sustainable living and renewable energy sites
- Creating sustainable energy and land use curriculum
- Work with a charter school to develop learning materials, curriculums and field experiences.
- Plan the final experience – a field study of geology and ecology in the Black Hills and Badlands

Month 4 - Two-week field expedition.

Conduct the final trip to observe the natural history, geology and cultures of the Badlands and Black Hills



Student outcomes include training in: Environment as an Integrating Context - a nationally-recognized best practice in education, Sustainable forest management planning, and Renewable Energy planning.

Course cost: \$6,550

(A non-refundable \$100 deposit is required at time of registration)

To register or for more info

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