Class Syllabus
Map, Compass and Backcountry Navigation (PE 282)

Idaho State University College of Education
Department of Sport Science & Physical Education

Summary
If desired, you can put headings before each of the following and format it all in one column. I prefer placing them in two columns (the COE style format) and leaving off the headings, but it's up to you. I added the heading "Summary" to make it consistent with the rest of the syllabus, but it is not a required element of a COE syllabus. By the way COE means College of Education.

PE 282 Map, Compass and Backcountry Navigation  Ron Watters
1 Credit  Outdoor Program Office
Fall Semester  208.282.3912 / wattron@isu.edu
Friday, Saturday, Sunday (Oct 3, 4, 5)  Office Hours (See Below)

Course Website (Optional)
A course website is optional. If you have one, you'll certainly want to include it on the syllabus. COE doesn't provide any guidance on where to place it, but because of its direct importance to students, I suggest including it right after the "Summary" section at the beginning of your syllabus. If you don't have a course website, just delete this entire section.

Additional information about the course and related materials is found at the following URL address: http://www.isu.edu/~wattron/Maps.html

Course Instructor, Office and Contact Information (Optional)
This section is not a required element of the COE syllabus. But if you don't have regular office hours, you'll need to include something similar to below. You may also wish to use this section to say a little something about yourself and what makes you qualified to teach the class. Note: you don't need to include your home phone. In my case, it is necessary since I'm part time.

Ron Watters is an adjunct faculty member of the Physical Education Department. Since he is a part time instructor, he does not have office hours like full-time faculty. Feel free to contact him via email (wattron@isu.edu). You may reach him at the Outdoor Program Office (236-3912), or feel free to call him at home 232-6857. His website is found at: http://www.isu.edu/~wattron

Course Description
Use the catalog description here: "An examination of recent research, literature and contemporary writing in outdoor education. Course work consists of a series of reading assignments followed by oral reports and class discussions."
Targeted Standards

(Currently, you can leave this out. Next year you'll be able to reference targeted standards as part of a departmental assessment plan. Preliminary work is currently underway on specific outdoor education standards.)

Course Objectives

Think about what you are trying to accomplish in your course and summarize it here in terms of course objectives:

Objective 1: To gain an understanding of maps, their development, interpretation, and the wealth of information and data they provide.

Objective 2: To develop practical skills in the use of map and compass and wilderness navigation

Course Content

This is where you can provide your students with more information about the course and its overall design.

The use of map and compass is one of the most basic of outdoor skills. This class is designed to provide information and practical experience to help you feel comfortable with land navigation techniques. Topics covered include: map symbols, contour line identification, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinate System, township and range surveying system, latitude and longitude, map scales, declination, resection and map and field bearings. During the class, you'll go on three map and compass courses. Each course is a little harder than the previous, giving students a chance to gradually develop proficiency in field skills. The land course utilizes advanced orienteering techniques such as following bearing through heavy timber and pacing to control points.

Course Schedule

If you are teaching a course that meets on a regular basis, you may wish to include a schedule of activities, topics covered, assignments, and tests planned over the course of the semester. If you are teaching a workshop class, include the days, times, locations as shown below in the example.

Friday, October 3. Time: 7:00-10:00 pm. Location: Outdoor Program Office, Student Union Building. Basic map work, bearings and UTM coordinates.

Saturday, October 4. Time: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Location: Meet at the Outdoor Program Office, Student Union Building. (Note: an hour break will be provided for lunch.) Morning: map scales, longitude/latitude system, township/range system, UTM system, map symbols, map and field bearings. Afternoon: Contour line identification. First map & compass course (Red Hill area).
Sunday, October 5. Time: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Location: Meet at the Outdoor Program Office, Student Union Building. (Note: an hour break will be provided for lunch.) Morning: 2nd map & compass course (held near Fish & Game office on university property east of Interstate 15. Transportation will be provided.) Afternoon: Third map & compass course (held on Scout Mountain. Transportation will be provided.). Final test will be given at the Scout Mountain field site.

Text and Readings

Because all of our outdoor education courses have fees, we often do not require texts. That helps our students and keeps their costs under control. Of course, in some cases, texts are necessary and you should use them. If so, list the text(s) here. If no text is necessary, you'll want to indicate two or three primarily source materials as an alternative to a text.

No text is required, but material and readings come from the following:


Other References

This is not a required element of the COE syllabus, but since we have one of the finest outdoor resource centers in the regional area, we'll want to encourage students to utilize it as a supplemental source of information for their outdoor classes.

Other resources supplementing the class are available in the Outdoor Program library and resource center. In the library you'll find maps, guidebooks, magazines, videos and catalogs, all of which are available on a free check-out basis. The Outdoor Program office is open 9 to 5 weekdays.

Course Requirements and Attendance Policy

This is an important section to include. For some reason, we always get students taking weekend workshops who think they can skip a Saturday or Sunday or both days. You really need to make your attendance policy clear at this point.

Since this course meets on a workshop basis, attendance is critically important. All of the field work in the class takes place on the two weekend days planned in the schedule. Not attending one of the weekend days is equivalent to missing as much as four weeks of a normal class. Missing that much of a class in which participatory activity is a key component is unacceptable.

Thus, you must attend both weekend days to receive credit for this class. Remember, attendance on two weekend days is mandatory. If you miss one or more days you can not receive credit for the class.
Evaluation Criteria and Grading Scale

College of Education approved percentage scale is utilized:

A = 94 - 100
A- = 90 - 93
B+ = 87 - 89
B = 84 - 86
B- = 80 - 83
C+ = 77 - 79
C = 74 - 76
C- = 70 - 73
D+ = 67 - 69
D = 64 - 66
F = Below 63

The following -- or something similar -- is essential. Students want to know how you will determine their grade. I use the following method for Map & Compass. An alternative method is to include a list of assignments, papers, tests, etc., each worth a given number of points. The points are totaled, with so many points equivalent to an "A," so many points equivalent to a "B," and so on. However you do it, be specific. Providing an example as shown below helps greatly.

The final grade for the course is based on the following two components: 1) the completion of three map and compass courses; and 2) final written exam.

The map and compass courses are 60% of the total score. The final written exam is 40% of the total score. Here is an example of how final grades are calculated:

Total Map & Compass Course Score: 95%
Final Exam Score: 85%

Final Grade = (.60 x .95) + (.40 x .85)
Final Grade Percentage = 91%
Final Grade = A- (Using the chart above)

Physical Activity Required in the Class

The following statement was developed a few years ago in response to a student request to clarify the amount of physical activity involved in our classes. It also helps from a liability standpoint. You'll need to alter it for your specific class. Be sure to include it.

In order to learn how to use a map and compass, you'll need to do quite a bit of hiking. The class begins indoors on the first day, but we soon go outside to do the first map and compass course. The first course involves hiking up and down moderately steep to steep hills for about a distance of 2.5 miles. Most of the hiking is on old roads and trails, but some of it is cross-country across sage-covered areas.
The next day is spent almost entirely outdoors. In the morning, you will hike a three-mile course, mostly off-trail across moderately steep to steep country. In the afternoon, we are in the Scout Mountain area, and you will be hiking about 4.5 miles cross-country through heavy timber, brush, and some marshy areas. There are some very steep hills in the Scout Mountain area. The weather can range from cold-and-snowy to hot-and-sunny. You should be physically fit enough to be able to hike these long distances over a two-day period—and you need to be mentally prepared for changeable weather.

**Acknowledgement of Risk**

Yes. We do have students sign a liability release and acknowledgment of risk form, but the more you can emphasize it, the better. You can use the following verbatim.

This is a course which involves physical activity in the outdoors. It's important that you understand that there are risks involved whenever you participate in outdoor activities. While we try to provide a safe environment, we can not guarantee your safety. In particular, there are inherent risks that cannot be eliminated without drastically altering the character of this activity. The same elements that help create the unique character of this activity may also be the cause of loss or damage to your equipment, accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma, disability or death. By participating in this class, you acknowledge that these risks exist and you agree not to bring legal action should a problem occur. We ask that you help the instructor keep the class safe by watching for potentially dangerous situations and informing the instructor and fellow class members. You are under no obligation to remain in the class. If at any point, prior or during the class, you decide that you would rather not accept the risks, just notify the instructor and you'll be allowed to drop the class.

**Academic Dishonesty**

(This is not absolutely necessary, but past College of Education syllabi guidelines suggested that it be included. You can use the following -- and the last two sections verbatim.)

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and cheating. For more information refer to the ISU Student Handbook found on the following webpage: www.isu.edu/references/st.handbook/conduct.html#CONDUCT. For definitions of cheating and plagiarism, see the ISU Faculty and Staff Handbook (Part 6, Sec. IX, page 6.9.1) found on the webpage: www.isu.edu/fs-handbook/part6/6_9/6_9.html

**Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

The Sports Science and Physical Education program is committed to providing classroom and field environments in which all students may achieve their potential. If you have a disability or think you have a disability (physical, learning, hearing, vision, psychiatric) which may need reasonable accommodation, please contact the ADA Disabilities & Resource Center as early as possible. The Center is located in Room 123 of Graveley Hall on the lower Idaho State University Campus. Its phone number is 282-3599.
Evaluation of Course and Instructor

College of Education course evaluation forms will be distributed at the end of the semester at which time, you'll have an opportunity to evaluate the course and the instructor.

Other Information . . . You may have other information which is necessary for your course, and you'll want to include it on your syllabus.

Finally . . . Include the Outdoor Education Portfolio Requirement sheet if your class has a PE prefix. Don't attach it if it's a PEAC class. The portfolio requirements follow.
Outdoor Education Majors: Portfolio Requirements
Idaho State University Sports Science and Physical Education Department
Academic Year 2005-6

Note: the following is only required if you are a physical education major with an outdoor education emphasis through the Sports Science and Physical Education Department. If you are majoring in another subject, you can disregard the information below.

If you are an outdoor education major, you are expected to compile a personal portfolio. You'll want to begin saving information for your portfolio as soon as you undertake your course of study. For example, as part of the requirements of PE 220 (Foundations of Physical Education and Sport), you will develop a professional resume. A resume is one of the required components on list below and you'll want tuck it away for your portfolio.

Portfolio material may be placed in a three ring binder or in a portfolio case. You'll be asked to submit your portfolio as a requirement for PE 445 (Methods of Teaching Outdoor Activities and Practicum). Note: if you have not completed all of your outdoor education class work at the time you take PE 445, you will need to present your portfolio for a final check with your advisor. This must be done NO LATER than two weeks prior to graduation.

The following is a list of portfolio requirements. You may also add appropriate professional information that you think is relevant to your career search.

Required Components

1. Professional Resume. (Foundations of Physical Education and Sport - PE 220).
2. Transcript. (Make a copy of your ISU Transcript)
3. An Outline of Your Program of Study. (List of classes you have completed toward your major degree. This information, of course, is included on your transcript, but in this document, you should list only the classes you have taken for your major.)
4. Evidence of Completed Current First Aid Requirements. (If Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder does not appear on your transcript, then you will need a photocopy of a current wilderness first aid certificate.)
5. Leadership Project Report. (Outdoor Leadership - PE 386)
6. Community Conservation Project Report (Outdoor Leadership - PE 386)
7. Outdoor Journal. (Outdoor Leadership - PE 386)
8. Examples of Lesson Plans Created. (Outdoor Methods - PE 445)

Other Components to Consider (Not Required)

- Evidence of professional presentations, i.e., copies of PowerPoint slides, presentation outlines, hand-outs, and other materials (Outdoor Leadership - PE 386; Risk Management - PE 384; Methods - PE 445)
- Material and dates from professional conferences you have attended.
- Reading lists from Outdoor Literature - PE 440.
- Names of professional organizations (physical education or outdoor education) that you may belong to and material from these organizations (Foundations - PE 220).
- Professional literature you have published or research projects completed.