

**University of Alaska Anchorage  
College of Education  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8269**

**ED 581 Professional Learning in Science Education:  
High Country Wildflowers**

**1 Credit, Graded P/NP**

**Summer 2017**

**Course Sponsor:** Alaska Geographic, Murie Science and Learning Center, Denali National Park

**Instructor:** Wendy Mahovlic

**Education Instructor:** Sarah Warnock

**Facilitating Instructor:** David Tomeo

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**Course Meeting Information**

**Location:** Murie Science and Learning Center, Denali National Park & Preserve entrance

**Start and End Date:** June 19, 2017 to June 21, 2017

**Class Day(s) & Time(s):** June 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm through June 21<sup>st</sup>, 4pm, continuous residential course

**Final Project Due:** last day of class

**Course Description:** During this course participants will explore the wildflowers of the tundra and taiga. Fieldwork will consist of identifying wildflowers by sight and utilizing hand lenses and field guides when necessary. Participants will study the unique adaptations of Denali's wildflowers. This course is designed as an introductory course to Denali's wildflowers. Participants will also consider how to integrate their learnings from this fieldwork course into their teaching or educational environments.

**Intended Audience:** Teachers and other interested educators

**Enrollment Restrictions:** None

**Course Prerequisite/Co-requisites:** None

**Course Design:**

- a. Requires 15 contact hours and approximately 30 hours of engaged learning.
- b. Does not apply to any UAA certificate or degree program.
- c. No UAA lab and/or materials fees beyond standard charges.
- d. This Murie Science and Learning Center course will be entirely field-based. Learning will be achieved through lectures, group discussions, field observations, and field activities. This course is based upon the collegial sharing, collaboration, and support of the participants and facilitator as a community of learners. Course activities will include common readings and group discussions, collective learning processes, peer coaching/mentoring, and reflective practices.

**Instructional Goals and Defined Outcomes:**

## RESEARCH BASED THEORY/PRINCIPLES/PRACTICES/TRENDS (CONTENT)

1.0 Instructional Goal:

The instructor will familiarize the participants with common botanical terms, vocabulary and the different biomes within Denali National Park.

Defined Outcomes:

- 1.1 Participants will identify specimens using botanical terminology.
- 1.2 Participants will identify flowers and their families.
- 1.3 Participants will identify and explain the differences between the taiga habitat and the tundra habitats within Denali National Park.

## THEORY INTO PRACTICE (APPLICATION)

2.0 Instructional Goal:

The instructor will teach the participants the skills for identifying plants and utilizing plant identification tools, such as hand lens, dichotomous keys and field guides.

Defined Outcomes:

- 2.1 Participants will demonstrate their field skills and identify the common flowers of Denali National Park.
- 2.2 Participants will describe how they will integrate their experiences into their teaching or educational environments.

## REFLECTION ON THEORY INTO PRACTICE (REFLECTION)

3.0 Instructional Goal:

Engage participants in discussions, reflective journaling and informal sharing about science instruction and how to incorporate gained knowledge and experience into their classrooms.

Defined Outcome:

Participants will review and reflect upon the scientific information covered. Participants will complete a journal, reflecting on how the information can be shared with their students.

## RELATIONSHIP TO STANDARDS

- 4.0 Instructional Goal:  
Familiarize participants with science content standards addressed by the strategies and concepts presented.

Defined Outcome:  
Participants will identify the Science-Content standards applicable to their classroom.

### **Writing Style Requirements:**

Participants' writing will reflect the clarity, conciseness, and creativity expected of post-baccalaureate certificated educators.

### **Attendance and Make-up Policy:**

Participants are expected to actively and collegially participate in all classes as a contributing member of a learning community. Attendance at every session is mandatory.

### **Course Assignments, Assessment of Learning, and Grading System:**

Course grading will be Pass/No Pass based upon the following:

- a. Participation 50%  
Participants will be expected to actively and collegially participate in discussions, activities, and other process experiences during the seminar.
- b. Final Project - Journal completion 50%  
Participants will complete journal assignments to be turned in to MSLC field guide on the last day of class. Assignments will include thoughtful reflection based upon seminar experience and an application plan of how participants will integrate issues and content discussed into their own classroom setting.

## **Quality of Work**

### **Grade of "Pass"**

Passing work includes all components of the assignment and meets proficient criteria. It is focused, developed, supported, logical, and acceptable work with minimal errors. Work of this quality indicates understanding of key concepts and knowledge base.

### **Grade of "No Pass"**

Work graded "No Pass" may lack key criteria/components of the task and show little or no evidence of conceptual understanding or knowledge utilization. Work may also show minimal or no organization/development and/or clear focus (may be difficult to follow) and may contain numerous errors. This grade indicates minimal or no knowledge or concept development. It may also mean that work was not attempted.

### **Course Calendar/Schedule:**

- Monday 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Greeting and check in at MSLC  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Introduction, orientation & overview  
    ○ Brief introduction of Denali's flowering plants  
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Drive to MSLC Field Camp
- Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exploration of Denali – both taiga and tundra habitats  
    ○ Identification of common wildflowers  
    ○ Investigation of adaptive strategies of Denali's flowering plants

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner and evening discussions

- Review of plants seen today
- Teacher study group to discuss the day's activities and how the information can be shared with students
- Identify applicable science content standards addressed by course content

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Continued exploration of Denali

- Continued study and identification of Denali's flowering plants

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Return drive to MSLC

**Final Project Due:** last day of class

**Course Texts, Readings, Handouts, and Library Reserve:**

Suggested Text/Material:

Elpel, T. J. (2010). *Botany in a day: the patterns method of plant identification*. Pony (Montana): Hops Press.

National Park Service. *Plants*. Retrieved from:

<https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/plants.htm>

Pratt, V., & Pratt, F. G. (Ed.). (1993). *Wildflowers of Denali National Park*. Anchorage, AK: Alaskakrafts Publishing.

Supplemental information can be found in the following sources:

Content References:

Harris, J. and Harris, M. (2001) *Plant identification terminology: an illustrated glossary second edition*. Payson, UT: Spring Lake Publishing

Hultén, E. (1968). *Flora of Alaska and neighboring territories: A manual of the vascular plants*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Kaplan, E. (1996). *Taiga: Biomes of the world*. New York: Benchmark Books.

Schofield, J. (1989). *Discovering wild plants: Alaska, western Canada, and the Northwest*. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Northwest Books.

Trelawny, J. G. S., & Trelawny, J. G. S. (2003). *Wild flowers of the Yukon, Alaska & northwestern Canada*. Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Pub.

U.S. Department of the Interior, [et al.]. (2005) *Invasive plants of Alaska*. Washington, DC: Supt. of Docs., U.S. Government Office.

Zomlefer, W. (1994). *Guide to flowering plant families*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Zwinger, A. H., & Willard, B. E. (1989). *Land above the trees: A guide to American alpine tundra*. Boulder, CO: Johnson Books.

### Standards References:

Alaska Comprehensive Center. (2012). *Guide to Implementing the Alaska Cultural Standards for Educators*. Juneau, AK: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Retrieved from: [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/cultural\\_standards.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/cultural_standards.pdf)

Alaska Native Knowledge Network. (1998). *Alaska standards for culturally responsive schools*. Fairbanks, AK: University of Alaska Press. Retrieved from: <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/publications/culturalstandards.pdf>

National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Achieve. (2013). *The next generation science standards*. Retrieved from <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>.

National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies and Board on Science Education. (2012). *A framework for K-12 science education: Practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press. Free download retrieved from: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/13165/a-framework-for-k-12-science-education-practices-crosscutting-concepts>

State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (1997). *Standards for Alaska teachers*. Juneau, AK: Author. Retrieved from: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/teacher.pdf>

State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. (2006). *Content and performance standards for Alaska students*. Juneau, AK: Author. Retrieved from: <http://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/standards.pdf>

### **Alignment with College of Education Vision, Mission, and Conceptual Framework:**

We believe that the preparation and support of professional educators is the shared responsibility of the University of Alaska Anchorage and our partners, and that our programs must evolve dynamically in response to unique community needs, research, and continuous program assessment. This PACE course is designed to meet a professional development need in response to our partner school districts and professional organizations. The course fits within the mission of the UAA College of Education as we encourage lifelong learning to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

### **Link to Standards for Alaska Teachers:**

This professional development effort is firmly rooted in the fundamentals of the standards for Alaska Teachers. It is offered to encourage and support practicing educators in attaining, maintaining, or surpassing the standards that, as stated in Standards for Alaska's Teachers, "define the skills and abilities our teachers and administrators need to possess to effectively prepare today's students for successful lives and productive careers." (Roger Sampson, <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/standards/pdf/teacher.pdf>)

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Incomplete Grades**

**Due to the nature of this course, grades of incomplete will not be permitted.**

### **ADA Policy**

The provision of equal opportunities for students who experience disabilities is a campus-wide responsibility and commitment. Disabilities Support Services (DSS) is the designated UAA department responsible for coordinating academic support services for students who experience disabilities. To access support services, students must contact DSS (786-4530 or 786-4536 TTY) and provide current disability documentation that supports the requested services. Disability support services are mandated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. Additional information may be accessed at the DSS Office in Business Education Building (BEB105) or on-line at [www.uaa.alaska.edu/dss](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/dss).

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Academic integrity is a basic principle that requires all students to take credit only for the ideas and efforts that are their own. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are defined as the submission of materials in assignments, exams, or other academic work that is based on sources prohibited by the faculty member. Academic dishonesty is defined further in the "student Code of Conduct." In addition to any adverse academic action that may result from the academically dishonest behavior, the University specifically reserves the right to address and sanction the conduct involved through student judicial review procedures and the Academic Dispute Resolution Procedure specified in the University catalog.

### **Professional and Ethical Behavior**

University of Alaska Anchorage College of Education students are expected to abide by the State of Alaska Code of Ethics of the Education Profession and professional teaching standards as they concern students, the public, and the profession. The standards, adopted by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission, govern all members of the teaching profession. A violation of the code of ethics and professional teaching standards are grounds for revocation or suspension of teaching certification.

### **Technology Integration**

University of Alaska Anchorage College of Education students are expected to (a) demonstrate sound understanding of technology operations and concepts; (b) plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology; (c) implement curriculum plans that include technology applications in methods and strategies to maximize student learning; (d) facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies; (e) use technology to enhance productivity and professional practice; and (f) understand the social, ethical, and human issues surrounding use of technology in PreK-12 schools and apply those principles in practice.

### **Course Safety and Risk**

This course is sponsored by Alaska Geographic and the Murie Science and Learning Center. The University of Alaska Anchorage provides the credit option for interested participants. This course takes place entirely outdoors and within a remote area of Alaska. Field courses, such as this, do have inherent risks. These risks will be outlined in the Alaska Geographic Acknowledgement of Risk form and by the course instructors. Acknowledgement of Risk form will be provided at the time of registration and a signed copy is required in order to attend.