

1-1-2003

CD 690 Discipleship Development Through Trail Camping

Steve Venable

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Recommended Citation

Venable, Steve, "CD 690 Discipleship Development Through Trail Camping" (2003). *Syllabi*. Book 1998.
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**2003 PROSPECTUS:
CD 690 DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TRAIL CAMPING**

Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390

Adjunct Instructor: Steve Venable

DESCRIPTION: Backpacking experience in Daniel Boone National Forest and/or Sheltowee Trace, with parish-based youth living and working in trail families of eight to ten persons in a summer backpacking trip. Course requires securing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Red Cross first aid certification, and readings related to mentoring and discipling youth.

PREREQUISITES: CD 610 or CD615

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Be able to design and implement effective camping experiences for church or agency-based ministry with effectiveness in planning, budgeting, and executing the trip including skill development in:
 - Wilderness respect and safety
 - Trail navigation
 - Group process in wilderness settings
 - Basics of backpacking equipment
 - Food planning and preparation
 - First aid applications
2. Develop a deep appreciation for the revelation of God through creation and grow an initial understanding of self as co-revelator with God.
3. Faithfully exegete teenagers and their culture for the purpose of reaching them for Christ in their own context.
4. Deepen an awareness of the developmental processes at work in adolescents and how intentional relationship building can create the context for spiritual maturation
5. Understand and embrace the power of rites of passage to encourage the initiation of adulthood and be able to utilize them in the context of ministry settings.
6. Broaden their knowledge of resources available for conducting effective recreation ministries.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

BACKPACKERS FIELD MANUAL directed by Rick Curtis - a reference guide to remind you of crucial info while on the trail

HOW TO USE CAMPING EXPERIENCES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION by Stephen Venable and Donald Joy - a proposal for future use in recreating meaningful camping experiences

EMPOWER YOUR KIDS TO BE ADULTS by Donald Joy - a reflection on the need for and how to's of rites of passage

WINDOWS OF THE SOUL by Ken Gire - a personal reflection paper on this devotional book that really touches the heart

OTHER REQUIRED READING:

At least four articles, one from each area (i.e. rites of passage/contextualization, theological reflection, wilderness ethics) from the CD 690 notebook on the reserve shelf of the library.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Papers for this class consist of responses for each of the required texts, a summary paper integrating knowledge of the four selected articles, and an evaluative personal reflection paper after the week in the wilderness. Following are guidelines for each of these assignments and their weight for the course grade.

1. (15 points) From your reading of THE BACKPACKERS FIELD MANUAL prepare at least a three to four page ready reference instructional guide that details important information that you may need to know while spending this week in the gorge. I'm open to whatever format you choose for writing this paper. One possibility is for you to create a training guide for an adult sponsor, who had never before been on a camping trip, but wanted to feel equipped for whatever situation might be encountered while in the wilderness with a group of teens.
2. (15 points) In your reading of HOW TO USE CAMPING EXPERIENCES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION consider what ministry positions you currently occupy or hope to occupy after graduation. Write a two to three page proposal that projects how you could utilize camping experiences in the spiritual formation of people in your sphere of ministry. This could entail such things as using camping as part of a confirmation curriculum, as a rite of passage, as part of a family-based ministry, or simply as a personal retreat for you and friends or family.
3. (15 points) EMPOWER YOUR KIDS TO BE ADULTS is filled with important and far-reaching concepts that touch everything from unpacking your own family history, to mentoring youth, to creating communities of faith that give adult responsibility to youth rather than perpetuate adolescence. In this paper spend at least one page responding to the book on each of the following levels:
 - Name specific ideas, concepts, or events that "leaped out" at you and articulate why you believe this impacted you as significant.
 - Report how this material connected with you personally, what life events came to focus for you in reading the material, and/or any emotional responses you had to the text.
 - Project how this material will be useful to you in the future. What decisions/commitments do you need to make personally or in ministry because of having read this material?
4. (15 points) WINDOWS OF THE SOUL is intended to be a text to nurture your spiritual life, enhance your appreciation of being in creation, and touch a

- different part of you than is often focused on in seminary education. I anticipate this text moving you in some way or another and am interested in having you respond freely to how the Holy Spirit may use it in your life. If you like to journal and it provokes a desire to write then do so; if it stimulates sermon ideas or illustrations, report on how you used the material in preaching or teaching; if it recalls certain memories or renews some dimension of your spiritual life, make a personal response; if it inspires you to share part of it with a significant person, write about that experience or copy the letters or e-mails you created; if there were just certain passages you loved, recount them and indicate why they meant something to you; or if you think it was a waste to cut down a tree for this drive, then critique the author for his wastefulness.
5. (15 points) In a single two to three page paper integrate the selected articles you read from the reserve shelf. Indicate what interested you about these articles, what you found helpful from reading them, what future questions they raised that you might want to pursue, or what new possibilities for ministry were suggested.
 6. (25 points) The bulk of your grade comes from your participation in the trail camp itself - helping with preparation, interacting with the youth, fulfilling your role in the evening worship times, and evaluating the entire experience. For a final paper write several pages on what this experience meant to you and any suggestions you would have for improving future trail camps. You may wish to focus on a particular event that occurred on the trip, a relationship that became important, a new direction in your sense of calling, or how this experience fits in the whole of your seminary experience. Evaluate your own participation throughout the course and suggest a final grade for yourself.

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - on campus first aid/cpr training. Entire cost is \$40 payable to Marcie Thobaben at the beginning of the sessions. If you need only first aid or only CPR training call Steve for details. EVERYONE MUST BE certified in both areas!!! (You can get this certification elsewhere.)

July 24-25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. teams meet to coordinate final preparations. This evening we will likely need to meet to clean up the chuck wagon. ALL PAPERS EXCEPT THE FINAL EVALUATIVE PAPER SHOULD BE TURNED IN ON THIS DAY (i.e. written assignments 1-5 above). YOU MUST AT LEAST HAVE THE FIRST THREE COMPLETED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVING AS SPONSOR/MENTOR ON THE TRIP. If this presents a problem call me immediately as it may be necessary to postpone your involvement until next summer.

July 26 travel to the Gorge as a seminary team

July 27 youth arrive at the gorge

August 1 return to campus for pizza/debriefing over lunch and equipment clean-up

August 15 All written assignments are due. Email or mail them to Steve. (See contact information below.)

Send me the registration of \$55 a.s.a.p. and in response I'll send additional information. Also, if you know of potential youth whom we could recruit, send me an address and we will mail them a brochure. Cost for youth is \$110. Wilmore UMC can rent us equipment but may entail an additional cost to those needing equipment. Call me if you have need in this regard.

There is a more extensive bibliography for this course included in the notebooks on the reserve shelf in the library if you desire to do further study. I will be in touch periodically during the summer to get you working in teams for making additional preparations.

Contact me at steve@cetacanyon.org, 800-593-1992 (camp) or 806-655-8344 (home) if you have questions or run into difficulties.

Steve Venable
Ceta Canyon Camp & Retreat Center
37201 FM 1721
Happy, TX 79042

Articles on Reserve

Read four from the following – at least one from each category

Rites of Passage/Contextualization:

- Ferguson, Gary. "Sacred Time, Sacred Space: The Use of Ritual in Rites of Passage." *Zip Lines* 43 (Summer 2001): 17-19.
- Venable, Stephen F. "Adolescent Rites of Passage: An Experiential Model." *Journal of Experiential Education* 20, no. 1 (1997): 6-13.
- Whiteman, Darrell L. "Contextualization: The Theory, the Gap, the Challenge." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* (January 1997): 2-7.
- Wynkoop, Mildred Bangs. Audiocassette. *Rites of Passage in the Christian Life*. Wilmore, KY: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1982.
- Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. "Ritual Process and Christian Discipling: Contextualizing a Buddhist Rite of Passage." *Missiology* 19, no. 1 (1991): 3-19.

Theological Reflection:

- Anderson-Hanley, Cay. "Adventure Programming and Spirituality: Integration Models, Methods, and Research." *The Journal of Experiential Education* 20, no. 2 (1997): 102-108.
- Berry, Wendell. "Christianity and the Survival of Creation," 93-116. In *Sex, Economy, Freedom & Community*. New York: Pantheon, 1992, 1993.
- Fox, F. Earle. "The Spiritual Core of Experiential Education." *Journal of Experiential Education* 6, no. 1 (1983): 3-6.
- Hansel, Tim. "Holy Sweat: The Training of Servant Leaders Through the Wilderness Experience." *Journal of Christian Camping* (May-June 1982): 10-12.
- Smith, Daryl L. "Trailcamping--A Microcosm of Community." *Christian Education Journal* 10, no. 1 (1989): 51-62.
- Stringer, L. Allison and Leo H. McAvoy. "The Need for Something Different: Spirituality and Wilderness Adventure." *Journal of Experiential Education* 15, no. 1 (May 1992): 13-20.
- Venable, Cindy. "The Priority of Prayer: Focusing on Prayer From the Planning Process to Summer's End." *Christian Camp & Conference Journal* (May/June 2000): 8-10.
- Venable, Steve. "Tending the Shepherd: Spiritual Growth Through Wilderness Leadership." *Zip Lines* no. 38, (Winter 1999): 39-42.
- Venable, Steve. "The 'Write' Stuff: Identifying the Components of Good 'Camp' Curriculum." *Christian Camp & Conference Journal* (March/April 2001): 23-25.

Wilderness Ethics:

- Berry, Wendell. "Preserving Wildness." *Wilderness* (Spring 1987): 38-54.
- Marshall, Robert. "The Problem of the Wilderness." *Scientific Monthly* (February 1930): 141-148.
- Stegner, Wallace. "Wilderness Letter," 436-441. In *Late Harvest*. David R. Pichaske, ed. New York: Paragon House, 1992.

Additional/Recommended Books

Backpacking:

- Berger, Karen. *Hiking and Backpacking: A Complete Guide*. A Trailside Series Guide. New York: Norton, 1995.
- Fletcher, Colin and Chip Rawlins. *The Complete Walker IV*. New York: Knopf, 2002.
- Graydon, Don and Kurt Hanson. *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*. 6th Ed. Seattle, WA: The Mountaineers, 1997.
- Hampton, Bruce and David Cole. *Soft Paths: How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming It*. Revised and Updated. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole/NOLS, 1995.
- Harvey, Mark. *The National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide: The Classic Handbook*. New York: Fireside, 1999.
- McGivney, Annette. *Leave No Trace: A Guide to the New Wilderness Etiquette*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers/Backpacker, 1998.
- Weiss, M.D., Eric A. *Wilderness 911: A Step-by-Step Guide for Medical Emergencies and Improved Care in the Backcountry*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers/Backpacker, 1998.

Kentucky Flavor:

- Berry, Wendell. *The Unforeseen Wilderness: Kentucky's Red River Gorge*. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1991.
- Bluegrass Group Sierra Club. *Hiking the Red: A Complete Trail Guide to Kentucky's Red River Gorge*. Louisville, KY: Harmony House Publishers, 2000.
- Brown, Michael H. *Hiking Kentucky*. Helena, MT: Falcon Publishing Co., 2001.
- Burns, David M. *Gateway: Dr. Thomas Walker and the Opening of Kentucky*. Bell County, KY: Bell County Historical Society, 2000.
- Elliott, Brook and Barbara Elliott. *Hiking Kentucky*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1998.
- High, Ellesa Clay. *Past Titan Rock: Journeys into an Appalachian Valley*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.
- Lane, John. "Once-Again Wilderness." In *Waist Deep in Black Water* (pp. 17-23). Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2002.
- Manning, Russ. *The Historic Cumberland Plateau: An Explorer's Guide*. Second Edition. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 1999.
- Rogers, Hiram. *50 Hikes in Kentucky: From the Appalachian Mountains to the Land Between the Lake*. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2002.
- Ruchhoft, R. H. *Kentucky's Land of the Arches -- The Red River Gorge*. New Revised and Enlarged Edition. Cincinnati, OH: Pucelle Press, 1986.

Leadership/Wilderness Writings:

- Austin, Richard Cartwright. *Baptized into Wilderness: A Christian Perspective on John Muir*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1987.
- Graham, John. *Outdoor Leadership: Technique, Common Sense & Self-Confidence*. Seattle, WA: Mountaineers, 1997.
- Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1949
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989.

Ronald, Ann, ed. *Words for the Wild: The Sierra Club Trailside Reader*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1987.

Teale, Edwin Way, ed. *The Wilderness World of John Muir*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1954.

Thoreau, Henry David. *The Maine Woods*. New York: Penguin Books Edition, 1988.

---. *Walking: A Little Book of Wisdom*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco Edition, 1994.

Zahniser, Howard. *Where Wilderness Preservation Began: Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser*. Utica, New York: North Country Books, 1992.

Community/Spiritual Growth:

Bratton, Susan Power. *Christianity, Wilderness, and Wildlife: The Original Desert Solitaire*. Scranton, PA: University of Scranton Press, 1993.

Crabb, Larry. *Connecting: Healing for Ourselves and Our Relationships: A Radical New Vision*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997.

Douglas, David. *Wilderness Sojourn: Notes in the Desert Silence*. San Francisco: Harper, 1987.

Gire, Jr. Ken. *Windows of the Soul: Experiencing God in New Ways*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Klopfenstein, David and Dottie, and Bud Williams. *Come Ye Apart: Christian Leadership in the Temporary Community*. Wheaton, IL: Holysm Publishing, 1999. (Available at 1stBooks.com.)

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.

Slater, Tom. *The Temporary Community: Organized Camping for Urban Society*. Sutherland NWS, Australia: Albatross Books, 1984.

Willis, Scott Cabot. *Wilderness Therapy: The Search for Healing, Health, and Wholeness in the Wilderness*. Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1989. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)

Rites of Passage:

Hill, Jr., Paul. *Coming of Age: African American Male Rites-of-Passage*. Chicago: African American Images, 1992.

Joy, Donald M. *Empower Your Kids to be Adults*. Napanee, IN: Evangel Publishing House, 2000.

Persons, David Nelson. *Teach Them Unto Your Children: Contextualization of Basanga Puberty Rites in the United Methodist Church*. Ph.D. diss., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1990. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)

Venable, Stephen Fletcher. *Mountain Cathedrals: An Exploratory Study of Spiritual Growth in Teenagers Through Backpacking*. D.Min. diss., Asbury Theological Seminary, 1995. (UMI reprint 1-800-521-0600)

Wall, Kathleen and Gary Ferguson. *Lights of Passage: Rituals and Rites of Passage for the Problems and Pleasures of Modern Life*. New York: Harper Collins, 1994.

Zahniser, A. H. Mathias. *Symbol and Ceremony: Making Disciples Across Cultures*. Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1997.