

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: **BIOL155**
 FALL 2004

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Texts:

A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
 Iowa's Wild Places by Carl Kurtz
 Landforms of Iowa, Jean Prior
 Prairie In Your Pocket, Mark Mueller

Tentative Schedule:

This class is designed to give you a first hand experience with many of Iowa's unique landform areas: their geology; plant communities; wildlife and human impact. You will be evaluated on the basis of an ongoing portfolio that you will produce during the term. For many students, this may be the first experience with showing your efforts through this methodology. It is important that you are consistent, timely, and detailed in your approach. There will be a series of quizzes throughout the term so that I can see if you understand the texts, videos, and lecture material. You will also produce several major projects during the term that will form the basis of my evaluation of your efforts. There will be a full day field trip tentatively scheduled for Friday in mid- September.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic
August 31	Introduction, text review, historic and geologic perspectives. A quick tour of Des Moines through a topographic map. Orienteering: So what good is a compass in modern culture? Landforms of Iowa. Video: Perspectives in Utilization.
September 7	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 14-47. Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 4-15. The Art of Seeing and Diversity; pp. 28-39; Prairie Relicts. Iowa Environmental Philosopher Aldo Leopold. An introduction. To Sand County Almanac. Video 6: Prairies.
September 14	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 48-57; The Loess Hills. Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 77-86, Iowa's West Coast. Video 7: Go to the Hills. Aldo Leopold updates.
September 21	Video 4: More on the Loess Hills and NW Iowa. Planning for the Loess Hills full day field trip. Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 88-107, Prairie Marshes and Indian Summer's End. Moving with the flow of the Des Moines lobe.
September 28	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 58-67, The Southern Iowa Drift Plain. Video 2: Cycles of Time and Life. Check up on Journals. Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 108-121, Critters.
October 5	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 68-83, Iowan Surface and the Northwest Iowa Plains. Iowa's Wild Place, pp. 40-57, Great Weather and pp. 146-152, Big Kettle. Landforms of Iowa project. Aldo Leopold updates.
October 12	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 98-107, Alluvial Plains. Video 8: Wetlands. Ecology of Fragile Places. Leopold discussions.
October 19	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 84-97, The Paleozoic Plateau – an ancient landform. Video 3: The Paleozoic Plateau. Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 16-27, Bedrock Outcrops.
October 26	Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 124-135; 172-185, Native Woodlands and Woodland Wildflowers. Video 5: Woodlands. Leopold discussions.
November 2	Iowa's Wild Places, pp. 58-75, The Bird Habitat; pp. 144-157 Nesting. Project Presentations. Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic.
November 9	Landforms of Iowa, pp. 36-47. The Des Moines Lobe. We're Back Home Again! Iowa's Prehistoric Cultures: Models for Sustainability, or Exploitation? Leopold discussions.
November 16	Project Presentations
November 23	Project Presentations
November 30	Review
December 7	Final Review of Projects – all assignments due

Assignments:

Field Journal and Class Notes - Notes and sketches produced during the full-day field trip and hands-on learning activities in class are to be included in detail. Class lectures and discussions will "travel" through the 7 landform regions of Iowa. Your notes from lectures should be contained within your field journals. (100 points)

Landforms of Iowa - The big picture. During the term, you will produce a map of Iowa that contains the 7 major landforms discussed during the class. The maps must be accurate, color-coded with a key, and turned in by October 21. (50 points)

Video Evaluations – Evaluate at least 6 of 8 videos. Reviews should appear within your journals as attachments and are to be typed. Include: title, main theme(s), relate the video theme to current conservation efforts in Iowa. List 5 of the most important points of the video. List a personal behavior that you could change because of issues presented in the video. (50 points)

The Leopold Land Ethic – You will work in groups to accomplish this assignment. Each group will be assigned a section of the book, A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold. Your group will provide the class with an outline of the work, lead a discussion of the main points and prepare a quiz on the material. Quiz questions are to be presented to the instructor at least two weeks prior to your scheduled discussion session. Each group will compose an essay describing the most important points of a land ethic for the 21st century in Iowa. This essay must be typed and turned in the last day of class. (100 points)

Grading Scale:

Grade	Points
A	260-300
B	230-259
C	200-229
D	179-199
F	Below 179