



Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education  
“Principles and Foundations of Environmental Education”  
Course Syllabus – June 6 thru August 13, 2017

**OVERVIEW:**

*Principles and Foundations of Environmental Education* is a professional development course aimed at classroom teachers and non-formal educators who would like to gain basic knowledge of environmental education (EE) and how it can be incorporated into their instruction.

Through on-line distance learning, course participants will explore the history and goals of EE, develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators, and interact with other educators across the country.

Participants will work both individually and collectively by giving and receiving feedback in a virtual large discussion format. Assignments will help participants build a professional portfolio demonstrating their knowledge and skills in environmental education, which can then be applied towards becoming a Certified Environmental Educator through CAEE’s EE certification program.

**COURSE FORMAT:**

All work and communications will be done online using the Blackboard course website. Course dates will be from Monday June 6- Sunday August 13, 2017. The cost of participating in the course through CAEE is \$125 for CAEE members and \$160 for non-CAEE members. Two optional graduate-level recertification credits are available through the Colorado School of Mines Teacher Enhancement program for an additional fee.

Access to a computer and internet connection will be required.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

The course is organized around 5 themes describing a knowledge or skill area that is part of the professional development of certified environmental educators in Colorado. Themes include Environmental Literacy, Foundations of Environmental Education, Professional Responsibilities of the Environmental Educator, Planning and Implementation, and Assessment and Evaluation. Each theme includes competencies or statements of what individuals are expected to be able to demonstrate. Competencies are included in a rubric with measureable or observable actions that would enable one to judge whether an individual has mastered a particular competency. Each week, you will be submitting at least one piece of evidence that demonstrates your understanding of the theme. Assignments can become portfolio pieces that can be submitted as part of your Certified Environmental Educator portfolio (Optional). You will need to submit additional evidence to achieve Master Certified Environmental Educator.

There will be two assignments each week. By Sunday of each week, participants will need to submit one piece of evidence addressing the competencies for that week’s theme. By the following Wednesday, participants will be expected to comment and give feedback on at least one other classmates submitted evidence.

**GRADING:** Your Grade will be calculated as follows:

Weekly Assignments based on themes	60%
Comments and Feedback to Classmates	30%
Final Course Reflection	10%

<i>Week</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Competency</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>	<i>Assignment Due Date</i>	<i>Feedback Due Date</i>
1	Introductory Reflection: Perspectives on EE	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>Wed.* June 8</b>	<b>Sun.* June 12</b>
2	Theme 1: Environmental Literacy	1.3 Processes of Addressing Environmental Issues	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Sun. June 12</b>	<b>Wed. June 15</b>
3	Theme 2: Foundations of EE Part I	2.1 Fundamental Characteristics and Goals of EE 2.3 The Evolution of the Field of EE	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Sun. June 19</b>	<b>Wed. June 22</b>
4	Theme 2: Foundations of EE Part II	2.2 How EE is Implemented 2.4 Knowledge of EE Materials & Resources	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Sun. June 26</b>	<b>Wed. June 29</b>
5	Theme 3: Professional Responsibilities of Environmental Educators	3.1 Exemplary EE Practice 3.2 Ongoing Learning and Professional Development	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Sun. July 3</b>	<b>Wed. July 6</b>
6	Theme 4: Planning and Implementing EE Part I	4.1 Emphasis on Education, Not Advocacy	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Sun. July 10</b>	<b>Wed. July 13</b>
7	Theme 4: Planning and Implementing EE Part II	4.2 Knowledge of Learners and Learning 4.3 Knowledge of Various Teaching Methods 4.4 Climate for Learning About and Exploring the Environment 4.5 Planning for Instruction	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Sun. July 17</b>	<b>Wed. July 20</b>
8	Theme 5: Assessment and Evaluation of EE Part I	5.1 Learner Outcomes 5.2 Assessment that is Part of Instruction	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Sun. July 24</b>	<b>Wed. July 27</b>
9	Theme 5: Assessment and Evaluation of EE Part II	5.3 Improving Instruction 5.4 Evaluating Programming	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Sun. July 31</b>	<b>Wed. August 3</b>
10	Final Reflection and Next Steps	-	<b>1.5</b>	<b>Sun. August 7</b>	<b>Wed. August 10</b>

\*Due dates for the first week are different from others in the course. Please submit your Pre-Course reflection by Wednesday June 8 and provide peer feedback by Sunday June 12.