

### Course Information

**Instructor:** John MacKinnon, M.Ed.  
Outdoor Studies Instructor  
Cell # 970 236 6130  
Email: john.mackinnon@rrcc.edu  
John's Office Hours: by appointment only

**Dates:** 1/26/18 – 1/28/18 8 am – 6 pm

**Required Text:** AIARE Student Manual.

**Recommended Text:** Fredston, J., Fesler, D., Birkeland, K. & Chabot, D. (2011). *Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Snow Avalanche Hazard [5th Edition]*. Alaska Mountain Safety Center, Inc. ISBN - 978-0615499352

**Class Structure:** The class will utilize lectures, handouts, reading assignments, fieldwork, demonstrations, and videos where appropriate for the presentation of course material.

Class runs from January 26<sup>th</sup> to January 28<sup>th</sup>. Class begins at 8 am and finishes up around 6 pm. You can rent avalanche rescue gear (avalanche beacon, shovel, and probe) and snowshoes from RRCC if you do not have a backcountry ski or splitboard set-up. If you bring skis or a splitboard make sure you have skins that fit your boards. It is also OK to use snowshoes and carry a snowboard.

You will also need appropriate winter clothing and a backpack that can carry all your gear—that includes avalanche rescue gear and snowboards. I would recommend bringing ski poles if you are on snowshoes or a snowboard. Please contact me if you have any questions.

#### A. Class Overview

- a. Day 1 will mostly be in the classroom. We will be outside around campus for 1-2 hours. You won't need ski/ride gear for Day 1 but you will need to dress appropriately to be outside on campus. You will need avalanche rescue gear—beacon, shovel, probe—and a backpack for Day 1.
- b. Day 2 and Day 3 will mostly be in the field. Dress appropriately! You will want to pack enough snacks, water and hot drinks to stay warm and comfortable for up to 8 hours in the field.

#### B. Evaluation Methods and Class Management

Student evaluation and grading will be based on:

Criteria	Points
FIELD NOTEBOOK:	30 - complete, professional, accurate
WRITTEN SKILL EVAL:	40 - multiple choice test
PARTICIPATION:	30 - awake, active, engaged (5) & timeliness (5) for 10pts/day
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100 points total available	

**Note on Attendance/Participation:** Active participation in class is expected. Please call or text the instructor if you are running late. **Due to the short nature of this course, students who miss more than 4 hours of class will not be allowed to complete the course; they must withdraw as soon as possible to prevent receiving a failing grade.**

**Policies:**

- A. All electronic devices (phones, pagers, texting devices, MP3's (and such) must be turned off at the start of class each day. In-class use your computer must be limited to class notes, assignments, or research.
- B. There is no smoking during class, nor on the field trips (during official class times or meeting times, even impromptu meetings, or a teachable moment). Drugs or alcohol are not permitted at any time as per the RRCC Student Handbook.
- C. Physical Fitness and well-being is a standard part of these courses. Any concerns about your current level of fitness or ability to participate in physical education, outdoor education or park ranger courses should be addressed with you instructor and the program chair after receiving this syllabus.

**Course Description:**

Emphasizes the latest information available about the study of avalanches, snow science, rescue equipment, and rescue techniques. Provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to help instill good judgment and sound skills when making day-to-day travel decisions in the winter environment.

This three day avalanche safety course follows the *AIARE 1: Decision Making in Avalanche Terrain* curriculum. The course focuses heavily on decision making, choosing appropriate terrain and trip planning. Students will also spend time in snow profiles performing snowpack tests and learn the basics of companion rescue. Students leave the course with the tools to safely plan and carry out a trip in the wintertime.

This is a must class for anyone wanting to venture into the winter backcountry environment of the Rocky Mountains and a prerequisite for any aspiring backcountry ski and mountain guide. Students will receive a certificate of completion stating that the course was taught following the guidelines of the American Avalanche Association and the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education.

**Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills\*:**

- Describe the nature of avalanches and their dangers.
- Recognize safe and unsafe terrain.
- Understand the elements of snow metamorphism.
- Conduct a stability analysis using snow pits and external conditions.
- Know how to avoid avalanches.
- Know how to behave if caught in an avalanche and know how to rescue an avalanche victim.
- Organize and conduct a backcountry avalanche rescue operation using standard rescue equipment.
- Develop a plan for travel in avalanche terrain.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify avalanche terrain.
- Effectively use a decision-making framework to make terrain choices in a group setting.
- Demonstrate effective companion rescue.
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**The AIARE Curriculum Specifically Addresses:**

- Decision making.
- Avalanche types and their characteristics.
- An introduction to how avalanches form and release.
- Trip planning and prep.
- Gathering relevant avalanche, snowpack and weather observations.
- Avalanche terrain recognition, route assessment, and selection.
- Travel techniques, group management, and risk reduction
- Teamwork and communication as effective measures to mitigate human factors during each stage of planning and decision making.
- Companion rescue.

\*Adapted from Page 7 of the AIARE Student Manual

**Topics for each Class**

Date	Topics	Reading	Assessments	Location
Friday 1/26/18	Introduction to AIARE and Decision Making Avalanche Fundamentals Introduction to Companion Rescue Managing the Human Factor Reading the Bulletin	TBD	None Due	RRCC Campus

Saturday 1/27/18	Companion Rescue Continued Observation and Clue Gathering Field Session Trip Planning Intro	TBD	Check the CAIC Bulletin for the Front Range	St. Mary's Glacier Area
Sunday 1/28/18	Trip Planning Terrain Tour Course Close Test	TBD	Test Hand in Blue Books	St. Mary's Glacier Area

### **Academic Integrity**

Everyone associated with the college's academic community has a responsibility for establishing, maintaining, and fostering understanding and respect for academic integrity. The following principles are associated with academic integrity:

- Cite (give credit for) words and/or ideas in an academic exercise that are not expressly your own.
- Use information, computer programs, another person's work, study aids and/or other materials only when allowed by the instructor.
  - Remove materials from the library, labs, and other college facilities only when an official representative of the college grants permission.
- Use copyrighted materials only with permission.
- Refuse to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.
- Use only the resources specifically allowed when completing a test or other assignment.

Academic dishonesty is the intentional act of fraud when an individual claims credit for the work of another, uses unauthorized materials, or fabricates information in any scholarly exercise. Academic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to:

- forging educational documents
- damaging or destroying the works of another; or
- assisting others in acts of academic deception.

If you are aware of an incident of academic dishonesty, please report the occurrence to a faculty member, department chair, or administrator. Those committing academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action, such as failing the assignment or course and/or expulsion from the course or college.

### **Disabilities**

RRCC offers many special services to students with disabilities. The college complies with and fully supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, with amendments of 1974, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 regarding non-discrimination based on disability.

Reasonable accommodation is provided upon request for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation to participate in any class, program, service, or other activity at RRCC, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

No accommodations will be accepted after the due date for any required assignments, attendance, or fieldwork.

**Information: 303.914.6733 or 303.914.6737 TTY**

### **Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity**

RRCC is committed to diversity in its people and programs. The college is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, veteran status, or disability. It also does not tolerate acts of ethnic intimidation, which are any unlawful acts against persons or groups because of race, color, ancestry, religion, or national origin for the purpose of inciting and provoking bodily injury or damage to property. The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education has approved the RRCC Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Program Plan (available for individual, public, and agency review in the Personnel Office). The college has designated the Director of Personnel as its affirmative action officer.

### **RRCC Syllabus Insert – College Policies and Additional Information**

#### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

The current RRCC Academic Calendar is your most accurate source of academic events and deadlines <http://www.rrcc.edu/academic-calendar>

#### **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The current RRCC Student Handbook is your most current source of dates, resources, contacts, and policies: <http://www.rrcc.edu/student-life/handbook>.

#### **RRCC CATALOG**

For additional college policies, please see the current RRCC Catalog (<http://www.rrcc.edu/catalogs/17-18/>)

#### **CAMPUS MAPS**

Campus maps for both the Lakewood campus and the Arvada campus are available for assistance locating your classrooms and other campus services: <http://www.rrcc.edu/campus-maps/lakewood-interior> and

<http://www.rrcc.edu/campus-maps/arvada>

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Plagiarizing, cheating, or committing any other form of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of information, and/or helping someone else violate reasonable standards for academic behavior. Students who engage in any type of academic dishonesty are subject to both academic consequences as determined by the instructor and to disciplinary action as outlined in the RRCC disciplinary procedures, see the current Student Handbook: <http://www.rrcc.edu/student-life/handbook>.

### **CAMPUS CLOSURE INFORMATION**

Did you know RRCC is exempt from the State Inclement Weather Policy and may remain open while other state government offices close? You can learn when bad weather or emergency conditions require that either of the Red Rocks campuses are closed via local news media, the RRCC website, or by calling the campus closure line at 303-914-6600.

### **ACTIVATE AND USE YOUR STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNT**

RRCC communicates with students via email only through their student email address. For access information and instructions for setting up your account, please see the student email website (<http://www.rrcc.edu/admissions/student-email>).

### **WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY – STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOLS**

RRCC follows the standard response protocols visible in each in classroom and around both campuses. The RRCC Emergency Management Plan and additional useful information are available via the RRCC Police Department homepage.

### **RRCC SYLLABUS DISABILITY STATEMENT**

**ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:** Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by Accessibility Services and accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733, 720-372-1591(VP) or Accessibility Services [access@rrcc.edu](mailto:access@rrcc.edu). Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at the Accessibility Services website: [www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services](http://www.rrcc.edu/accessibility-services).

### **MANDATORY REPORTING STATEMENT**

Our College is committed to preserving a safe and welcoming educational environment for all students. As part of this effort, I have an obligation to report certain issues relating to the health and safety of campus community members. I must report to the appropriate College officials any allegation of discrimination or harassment. Sexual

misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, and sexual exploitation, is considered a form of discrimination.

In addition to reporting all discrimination and harassment claims, I must report all allegations of dating violence or domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, and/or credible threats of harm to yourself or others. Such reports may trigger contact from a College official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like more information, you may reach the Title IX/EO Coordinator: D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title IX Administrator, 303-914-6298 or Arnie Oudenhoven (arnie.oudenhoven@rrcc.edu) Reports to law enforcement can be made at the Red Rocks Campus Police Department behind the Welcome Desk at the Main Entrance or RRCC Dispatch (rrpd.dispatch@rrcc.edu) at 303-914-6394.

If you would like a confidential resource, please contact Deborah Houser, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Deputy Title IX Administrator, 303-914-6224 or Deborah Houser (deborah.houser@rrcc.edu)

Further information may be found on the college Human Resources website:  
<http://www.rrcc.edu/human-resources/sexual-misconduct>.