

Course title

PE 1630: Beginning Boating Skills (1000-level, 1 credit, CR/NC)

Course description

Beginning Boating Skills will introduce students to the foundational skills of operating watercraft, including skills related to safety, proper equipment use, steering, navigation, and analysis of water/weather conditions. The watercraft studied in Beginning Boating Skills will be announced prior to the start of the registration period and can include kayaks, canoes, shells and sculls, recreational motor boats and sail boats. All safety equipment, watercraft and transportation will be provided by the College. Students will be assessed on content knowledge and demonstration of skill proficiency throughout the semester. This hands-on course will primarily be held on a waterfront and students should anticipate getting wet. Students are encouraged to wear water shoes and light, water-resistant/water-proof clothing. When working with boats under 50ft in length, students must be able to swim 25 yards unassisted and tread water continuously for 5 minutes. A swim test will be given prior to the start of the class.

Rationale

As the Physical Education department works to increase the number of outdoor recreation courses available to students, it is logical to take advantage of the College's close proximity to the Connecticut River, West River and Spofford Lake. Additionally, because boating is a very popular recreational activity across the United States, offering students a boating skills class is a way to promote safe, lifelong participation in a physical activity that can be found in every US state.

Prerequisites

None

Course learning outcomes

1. Students will identify optimal water and weather conditions for boating relative to their ability level and boating goals.
2. Students will execute correct propulsion and steering methods relative to their watercraft in a variety of wind and water conditions.
3. Students will use the correct terminology relative to their watercraft.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of waterfront and boating safety.

Major methods of assessment

Successful completion of this 1 credit pass/fail course will be assessed based on:

1. Class attendance
2. Active participation (full cognitive and physical involvement for the duration of the class) in lessons and activities: 55%
3. Three formative assessments given during the semester to evaluate student learning in specific skills or concepts (examples include: skill rubrics, verbal or written quizzes, drawing or labeling a diagram): 30%
4. One summative assessment given at the end of the semester to assess the culmination of student learning (examples include: a "how to" video filmed by students, small group presentations, participation in a poster session, participation in a competitive, community-wide event (e.g. a regatta)): 15%

Texts and materials

None