

Course Syllabus

Tahoe Environmental Literacy Summit

1. Course Title: **Tahoe Environmental Literacy Summit**
2. College Credit: **One** (for 15 hours of instructional time, 7.5 hours at the summit and 7.5 hours later)
3. Course Number: To be assigned by SNC
4. Instructors:
Dan Allison, Environmental Literacy Consultant, 3100 Imperial Way, Apt 10, Carson City NV 89706
Art Sussman, Ph.D.,
5. Meeting Dates: **Saturday, October 11, 2008**
6. Meeting Times: **9:00AM to 5:00PM**
7. Meeting Location: **Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Dr, Incline Village NV 89451**
8. Who May Attend This Course: **This course is designed for K–12 teachers seeking recertification credit.**
9. Course Pre-Requisite: **Participants must be licensed to teach in the State of Nevada or credentialed to teach in the State of California.**
10. Goals for the Course:
This course is designed for all teachers K–12. It will expose students to a variety of both national curriculum such as Project Learning Tree and Tahoe Basin/Truckee River curriculum materials and programs. The focus of the keynote, plenary sessions, and concurrent sessions will be applied science, the use of real world issues as the basis of science learning, and service-learning opportunities available to teachers and their students by working with agencies and organizations, which meet academic growth objectives and community priorities.
11. Instructional Objectives of the Course:
 - a) **Participants will read, observe and participate in lessons from national curriculum such as Project Learning Tree, and locally developed and based curriculum on the Tahoe Basin and Truckee River watersheds.**
 - b) **Participants will help develop statewide environmental literacy guidelines by sharing specific needs and challenges from their classroom with other educators.**

- c) **Participants will participate in hands-on science lessons presented by an internationally known presenter, Dr. Art Sussman of WestEd.**
 - d) **Participants will demonstrate methods of instruction and create lesson plans for use in their own classrooms.**
12. **Instructional Format: Participants will be involved in whole group activities, small group tasks, lectures, discussions, hands-on application of concepts, and individualized assignments. There will be direct instruction, demonstration and modeling, cooperative learning, role playing, and the use of audio-visual materials.**
13. **Textbook/Printed Materials/Resources: Participants will receive handouts which will include background information, activities for classroom use, lesson plan ideas, and connections to agencies and organizations for service-learning projects. Participants may also purchase additional materials including the book *Dr. Art's Guide to Science* and the DVD "Dr. Art Does Science."**
14. **Absence Policy: Students must attend all class sessions to receive credit. Since the open exhibits/lunch activity is instructional time, credit earners will not be able to leave the course room or site during this time.**
15. **Daily Topic Outline: Attached.**
16. **Student Assignments: Students will participate fully in the summit, including group activities and lesson plan demonstrations. Students will also complete one of the three options below, in order to achieve a minimum 15 hours for one credit. Due date for all work will be will be November 30, 2008.**
- a) **Create a lesson plan of at least two hours, implement the lesson in your own classroom (or cooperatively with other teachers), evaluate the lesson in a paper of no less than three pages, and provide your lesson plan and evaluation for posting on the Teach Tahoe curriculum site.**
 - b) **Develop a service-learning project with at least one agency, organization or business partner. Document the project, evaluate the project after the first activity in a paper of no less than three pages which includes partner feedback.**
 - c) **Implement at least two lessons acquired during the summit, which include the use of environmental literacy guidelines and techniques to achieve standards in science and integrated with at least one other subject area. Write a reflection on the success and challenge of use environmental literacy to achieve academic standards, no less than four pages.**
17. **Grading Procedure: Grades will be assigned on a pass/fail basis. Letter grades are not available.**