

**COURSE CONTENT GUIDE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Department: HPER

Date: April 4, 2005

Course Number: PER A167

Course Title: Dog Mushing

Credits: 1 (one)

I. Course Description:

Introduces the practice of dog mushing, including the sport's history, dog breeds and characteristics, their training and feeding needs, kennel-management routines and dog handling skills.

Special note: Requires ability to function comfortably in extremely cold and/or inclement weather

II. Course Design

- A. Designed for individuals interested in obtaining an introduction to all aspects of current and historical dog mushing. Combines lecture material with hands-on application of material during day outings(s).
- B. One credit.
- C. Total time of student involvement: 52.5 hours
 - 1) Lecture: 7.5 hours
 - 2) Lab: 15 hours
 - 3) Outside 30 hours
- D. Status of course relative to a degree or certificate program: N/A
- E. A fee will be assessed.
- F. May be scheduled in any time frame, but not less than one week.
- G. This is a revised course.
- H. Military Programs, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Health Sciences and UAA List Serv.
- I. Course level justification: Course outcomes meet the criteria listed in the Curriculum Guide for a 100 level course.

III. Course Activities:

This course will include lecture, skill development and field application.

IV. Course Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

V. Course Evaluation:

Grades will be A-F based on written/oral examinations, written assignments, skill proficiency, class attendance and participation. Specific grading criteria will be discussed during the first class.

VI. Course Curriculum

- 1.0 Course Introduction
 - 1.1 Class and campus safety
 - 1.2 Appropriate apparel & footwear
 - 1.3 Travel and transportation

- 2.0 Introduction to Risk Assessment and Hazard Evaluation
 - 2.1 Environmental Risks
 - 2.1.1 Weather-cold challenges, white-outs, etc.
 - 2.1.2 Terrain-rivers, trees, and obstacles
 - 2.1.3 Animal encounters-other dogs, moose, etc.
 - 2.2 Hazards specific to the sport
 - 2.2.1 Injuries from lifting and falling
 - 2.2.2 Injuries from dogs and handling dogs
 - 2.2.3 Cold-weather injuries-frostbite and hypothermia
 - 2.3 Human factors
 - 2.3.1 Developing critical thinking, learning to think ahead
 - 2.3.2 Knowing your limits
 - 2.3.3 Learning to take care of yourself
 - 2.3.3.1 Personal protection/clothing
 - 2.3.3.2 Nutrition/hydration

- 3.0 History of Sled Dog Mushing
 - 3.1 Travel
 - 3.2 Racing
 - 3.3 Exploration
 - 3.4 War
 - 3.5 Service

- 4.0 Sled Dogs
 - 4.1 Characteristics of a good sled dog
 - 4.2 Common types/breeds

- 5.0 Mushing equipment
 - 5.1 Vehicles
 - 5.1.1 Sled types
 - 5.1.2 Wheeled rigs
 - 5.1.3 Rigging your vehicle
 - 5.2 Dog Accessories
 - 5.2.1 Harnesses
 - 5.2.2 Protective devices
 - 5.3 Securing devices
 - 5.3.1 Snowhook
 - 5.3.2 Snubline
 - 5.3.3 Quick-release

- 6.0 Personal Equipment
 - 6.1 Musher clothing
 - 6.2 Personal survival equipment-the 10 essentials
 - 6.3 First aid kits for humans and dogs
 - 6.4 Repair kits
 - 6.5 Equipment for animal encounters

- 7.0 Kennel Management
 - 7.1 Location/size
 - 7.2 Securing dogs
 - 7.3 Sanitation
 - 7.4 Shelter
 - 7.5 Health care
 - 7.6 Breeding
 - 7.7 Puppy care
 - 7.8 Regulations
 - 7.8.1 City, Federal, and Borough

- 8.0 Sled Dog Psychology
 - 8.1 Communicating with the animals
 - 8.2 Maintaining control
 - 8.3 Using positive and negative reinforcement
 - 8.4 Importance of consistency
 - 8.5 Training vs. exercise
 - 8.6 Physical vs. mental needs

- 9.0 Dog Nutrition and Feeding
 - 9.1 Food sources- what's available and where to obtain it
 - 9.2 Food and diet composition-carbohydrates, proteins, etc.
 - 9.3 Caloric needs
 - 9.3.1 Effect of weather
 - 9.3.2 Effect of exercise

- 10.0 Dog Sled Handling
 - 10.1 Starting
 - 10.2 Steering
 - 10.3 Stopping
 - 10.4 Securing

- 11.0 Frontcountry vs. Backcountry Mushing
 - 11.1 Frontcountry etiquette
 - 11.1.1 At the truck
 - 11.1.2 On the trail
 - 11.2 Backcountry travel
 - 11.2.1 Overnight needs and equipment
 - 11.2.2 Navigation

11.2.3 Dealing with emergencies

- 12.0 Racing Sled Dogs
 - 12.1 Sprint racing
 - 12.2 Middle-distance racing
 - 12.3 Long-distance racing
 - 12.4 Stage racing
 - 12.5 Skijoring/pulka

- 13.0 The Next Step
 - 13.1 Clubs and other local resources
 - 13.2 Venues
 - 13.3 Literature and biography

VII. Suggested Textbook:

Barve.L (2001) Chechako’s Guide to the Art of Dog Mushing, Todd Communications.

VIII. Bibliography

Bern, K. (1997) Complete Winter Sports Safety Manual: Staying Safe & Warm Snowshoeing, Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowmobiling, & Camping. Bear Claw.

Flowers, P. and Dixon, A. (2001). Alone Across the Arctic: One Woman’s Epic Jouney by Dog Team. Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company.

Salisbury, G. and Salisbury, L. (2005) The Cruellest Miles: The Heroic Story of Dogs and Men in a Race Against Epidemic. Norton, W.W. & Company, Inc.

Weiss, H. (1992). Secrets of Warmth: Warmth for Comfort or Survival. Brooklyn, NY: Vibe Publications.

Wendt, R. (1995) Alaska Dog Mushing Guide: Facts & Legends. Goldstream Publications.

IX. Instructional Goals, Student Outcomes and Assessment Procedures

Instructional Goals:

Presents concepts, skills and safety elements associated with introductory dog mushing.

Student Outcomes	Assessment Procedures
After successful completion of the course, the student will be able to: Identify potential hazards they may face during classroom activities, while on campus, and associated with travel to and from class or an outing.	Discussion Demonstration

Identify the most common hazards of dog mushing including environmental factors (such as weather, sport-specific hazards, moose encounters, encounters with other dogs on the trail) and subjective hazards (such as decision making).	Discussion Demonstration
Identify how the practice and sport of mushing dogs has changed through the years	Written exam
Identify the characteristics of a good sled dog, as well as the types and breeds most commonly used.	Discussion
Identify the types of sleds and vehicles, dog accessories, and securing devices that are common to the sport.	Written exam
Identify the equipment most commonly used by mushers, including personal clothing, survival gear, first-aid kits for humans and dogs, and repair kits.	Demonstration Written exam
Identify the importance of and steps to good kennel management including keeping a clean kennel, dog breeding considerations and practices and caring for puppies.	Written assignment
Identify the importance of musher/dog communication styles, disciplining techniques and how to get the most out of the dogs.	Discussion
Identify the correct food and diet composition for proper animal nutrition and maintenance and how weather and exercise affect a dog's caloric needs.	Written exam
Understand techniques used in handling dog sleds, including starting, stopping, steering, and securing the sled/dogs.	Demonstration Written exam
Identify the common rules and etiquette for frontcountry mushing.	Demonstration Written exam
Identify equipment, navigation skills and procedures for traveling in the frontcountry vs. backcountry.	Demonstration Written exam
Identify the different types of sled dog races, including sprint, middle-and long distance races, stage races, and skijoring.	Written exam
Identify the types of resources available to help them continue to develop their interest in, and knowledge of, dog mushing.	Discussion