



Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education  
“Principles and Foundations of Environmental Education”  
Course Syllabus – January 24th thru March 29th, 2021

**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 peer feedback in a virtual large discussion format. Assignments are aligned with many of the requirements for Certification as an environmental educator and can support participants in building their professional portfolio demonstrating their knowledge and skills in environmental education, which can 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 Moodle Platform. Course dates will be from Monday January 24th- Tuesday, March 29th, 2021. The cost of participating in the course through CAEE is \$150 for CAEE members and \$200 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 may need to submit additional evidence to complete final Certified Environmental Educator Portfolio for submission.

There will be two assignments each week. By Tuesday of each week, participants will need to submit one piece of evidence addressing the competencies for that week’s theme. By Friday, participants will be expected to comment and give feedback on at least one other classmate’s 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.* Jan. 26</b>	<b>Friday January 28</b>
2	Theme 1: Environmental Literacy	1.3 Processes of Addressing Environmental Issues	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Tuesday February 1</b>	<b>Friday February 4</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>Tuesday Feb. 8</b>	<b>Friday Feb. 11</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>Tuesday Feb. 15</b>	<b>Friday Feb. 18</b>
5	Theme 4: Planning and Implementing EE Part I	4.1 Emphasis on Education, Not Advocacy	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Tuesday Feb. 22</b>	<b>Friday Feb. 25</b>
6	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>Tuesday March 1</b>	<b>Friday March 4</b>
7	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>Tuesday March 8</b>	<b>Friday March 11</b>
8	Theme 5: Assessment and Evaluation of EE Part II	5.3 Improving Instruction 5.4 Evaluating Programming	<b>3.0</b>	<b>Tuesday March 15</b>	<b>Friday March 18</b>
9	Theme 3: Professional Responsibilities of Environmental Educators	3.1 Exemplary EE Practice 3.2 Ongoing Learning and Professional Development	<b>2.5</b>	<b>Tuesday March 22</b>	<b>Friday March 25</b>
10	Final Reflection and Next Steps	-	<b>1.5</b>	<b>Tuesday March 29</b>	

\*Due dates for the first week are different from others in the course. Please submit your Pre-Course reflection by Wednesday January 26th and provide peer feedback by Friday, January 29th.