



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

RTM 220: Rock Climbing Skills

Course CRN 20585, Section 01

Spring 2019; Credit Hours – 2; No Prerequisites;

Meets; 4:00-6:30 Tuesday (last 10 weeks of semester)

Meets: Administration A110

Professor: Dr. Gary Nussbaum

Office Location: NA

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: gnussbaum@concord.edu

College/Department Website: <https://www.concord.edu/business/node/23>

Course Description/Rationale: The course is designed for novice climbers, emphasizing *reasonably* safe, enjoyable and environmentally responsible rock climbing within a *professional/organizational context*. A variety of topics will be covered, including but not limited to: basic climbing techniques; basic safety systems and checks; risk management and mitigation; effective and efficient belaying; rappelling; the proper use and care of climbing equipment, including harnesses, helmets, ropes and hardware; knots; and climbing style and etiquette.

Course Management System:

Hardware/Software Needed: NA

Text requirements:

1. Text (Recommended):
 - Gaines, Bob, and Martin, Jason D. (2014) Rock Climbing: The AMGA Single Pitch Manual. Guilford, CT: Falcon Guides
2. Readings from assigned web sites, including:
 - <http://www.amga.com>
 - <http://www.climbingwallindustry.org/>
 - <http://www.americanalpineclub.org/>
3. Xeroxed and other handouts

Concord University Educational Goal(s)

This course will address goals in the realm of SKILLS, by teaching fundamental of a complex and popular sport, while requiring additional knowledge of safety and ethics required for participation and supervision.

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and respect for the risks associated with and inherent to rock climbing;
2. Utilize standard climbing safety systems and checks;

National Standards: NA**Specific Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and respect for the risks associated with and inherent to rock climbing;
2. Utilize standard climbing safety systems and checks;
3. Identify, tie and properly apply the basic or standard knots utilized in rock climbing;
4. Demonstrate the safe use and care of climbing equipment;
5. Explain the significance of climbing style and etiquette;
6. Demonstrate a working or practical knowledge of basic climbing and rappelling techniques; and
7. Explain basic terms, concepts and principles of rock climbing.

Course Requirements :

Course Requirements & Evaluation

1. Technical Skills: 50%. Students will be assessed while demonstrating basic climbing, belaying, rappelling, knot tying and communication skills.
2. Written Exam I: 10%. Sunday, March 31 at the end of the indoor climbing/belaying lab and belay skills checkoff. Covers assigned readings and content covered during the lab.
3. Written Exam II: 40%. Date to be arranged, typically within a week or two of final outdoor climbing day/
4. Fee: \$65.00: covers costs of additional instructor(s) and one day's use of the RU indoor climbing wall.
5. Mandatory Attendance:
 - Class/Lab: Tuesdays: Tuesdays, March 19 & 26
 - Indoor Climbing Wall, Radford University: 10:00A – 6:00P, Sunday, March 31; Location: Peters Hall, Radford University.
 - Climbing Weekend, Bozoo, West Virginia or **alternative** site; Saturday – Sunday, April 13-14, 9:30A – 6:00P each day. If one or both days are cancelled due to inclement weather, Saturday and/or Sunday, April 27 and/or 28 will be the **backup** days. We need **two** full days of outdoor climbing to complete course field requirements. If the first weekend allows us two days of climbing, our field requirements will be completed.
 - Depending upon the circumstances, failure to attend all sessions may result in withdrawal from the course, a lower grade, an incomplete grade, or a failing grade. Skills are developed and applied in a **cumulative, sequential** fashion; that time does not permit us to go back and cover previously covered material.
6. Active and Safe Participation: Careless or reckless behavior may result in immediate removal and withdrawal from the course, a lower grade, an incomplete grade, or a failing grade. Safe behavior on the part of all staff and students is expected and non-negotiable.

7. Preparation, Clothing & Footwear: Students are expected to prepare and dress appropriately for climbing ***and the weather***. That includes being well-rested, completely sober and hydrated before each lab and/or climbing field experience. Minimally half a grade will be deducted ***per day*** for inadequate dress, inappropriate footwear and/or lack of preparation (more will be deducted depending upon the degree of ill-preparation and dress).

****NOTE****

Rock climbing has inherent risks, and, regardless of reasonably prudent safety awareness and management, it is impossible to insure or guarantee safety. In the interests of mitigating the risk of unnecessary harm, students are expected to prepare appropriately and adhere to all safety instructions and guidelines.

Grading Policy and Scale:

Technical Skill Demonstration – 50%

Written Test 1 –10%

Written Test 2 –40%

Make-up Policy, Late Work:

Assignments will be accepted after the posted due date, but with a point

reduction penalty. Students who miss exams or other major scheduled activities may make them up if a verifiable excuse is provided. In-class assignments and activities cannot be made up, but a point adjustment will be made in the final grading process if a verifiable excuse is provided.

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

General Information & Course Schedule:

- Academic Integrity: Students are expected to follow both the spirit and letter of Concord University's code of student conduct.
- As a course/classroom in the outdoors, ***a non-smoking policy will be in place during all course activities.*** There will be no programmed smoking breaks.
- Equipment: all technical climbing equipment will be provided. Students will be able to utilize personal gear only if the instructor has approved it.
- Jewelry, watches, sharp objects, valuable objects, phones (smart or otherwise), etc., should be removed and left home unless absolutely necessary. Long hair should be tied back and/or tucked under the climbing helmet.

Date	Activity	Assigned Readings
Tuesday, March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions 	N/A
Tuesday, March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture/Lab: Climbing Equipment; Knots 	Text Chapters 1-3 Appendix A Readings as assigned
Sunday, March 31 10:00 – 6:00P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RU Indoor Climbing Wall – Peters Hall • Belay Skills Check Off • Exam 	Text Chapters 5-6 Readings as assigned
Saturday – Sunday April 13-14 9:30A – 6:00P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Climbing • Bozoo, WVA, or Alternative Site 	Text Chapters 10-12 Appendix A Readings as assigned
Saturday – Sunday April 27 and/or 28 <u>Backup Day(s) Only!</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Climbing • Bozoo, West Virginia, or Alternative Site 	Text Chapters 10-12 Appendix A Readings as assigned

TBA; typically within two weeks of last climbing day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Final Exam 	

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct. This course will rely on discussion, which includes difficult dialogue at times. This is an inclusive and safe classroom. All discussion points and questions are valued; as such, students are expected to treat one another and the professor thoughtfully and with respect. Racist, sexist, religiphobic, homophobic, heterophobic, or other pejorative or discriminatory language will not be tolerated and those who insist on such behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. This course may include material that is difficult or make you uncomfortable. Learning new ideas and pushing yourself is part of the academic process. You can learn the information without agreeing to it. However, if at any point you need to leave the classroom to collect yourself, you may do so, though you are still responsible for all content in this course.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384- 5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304- 384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer "This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."