

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PRLS 402 — Human Behavior in Natural Environments
Spring 2010

DAY/TIME: Tue/Thur 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
PROFESSOR: Dr. Kwame Boakye-Agyei
CELL PHONE: 703-867-0814

LOCATION: Occoquan Bldg #204
EMAIL ADDRESS: kboakyea@gmu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment/email

PREREQUISITES: PRLS 210, 300, and 60 credits, or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applies social and behavioral theories to management for recreational users of land and water resources. Examines deterioration and pollution of land and water, noise, crowding, and conflicts among users. Discusses strategies for mitigation of deleterious impacts and depreciative behaviors, and attitudes toward resource conservation, preservation, and use.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the state of the natural environment enjoyed by recreation users.
2. Discuss social and behavioral influences that affect the natural environment.
3. Discuss management theories and strategies for mitigating adverse effects on land and water resources used by recreationists.
4. Discuss strategies for facilitating development of constructive attitudes, uses and behaviors for resource protection and recreation use.
5. Articulate and apply impact management principles and knowledge of human behavior to the sustainable management of recreation-related natural resources.

COURSE OVERVIEW

- 1) **Attendance and Participation** – Class attendance and participation is mandatory and will constitute 10% of your grade.
- 2) **Honor Code** – Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code (see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu> for details). Violations, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Honor Committee. Student assignments may be put through plagiarism detecting software.
- 3) **Assignments** – All assignments must be typed. APA (American Psychological Association, 5th Edition) format must be used for all written work in this class (e.g., in referencing, creation of tables, and formatting headers for paper sections). **Assignments** must be turned in by the beginning of class on the specified date due. Only students with extreme emergencies, a documented medical excuse or university-sponsored functions discussed with the professor prior to the due date will be given consideration for exception. Please see the professor for further clarification on individual cases. It is recommended that students keep copies of all submitted work.
- 4) **Office of Disability Services (ODS)** – If you are a student with a disability, and you need academic accommodations, contact the ODS (703-993-2474; <http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc/>) to obtain the Faculty Contact Form. The Faculty Contact Form should be provided to the professor within the first week of the semester. All academic accommodations must be arranged through ODS.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required readings will be made available prior to the class session in which they will be discussed. All of the readings, my lecture notes (PowerPoint slides), assignment descriptions, and examination reviews in this course will be available on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to purchase the primary text for this course:

Manfredo, M. J., Vaske, J. J., Bruyere, B. L., Field, D. R., & Brown, P. J. (Eds.) (2004). *Society and natural resources: A summary of knowledge*. Jefferson, MO: Modern Litho.

GRADING POLICY

Your end-of-semester course grade will have the following break-down:

Item	Percent of Final Course Grade
Reading Summaries and Assignments	20%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Group Project	15%
Discussions and Leadership	10%
Presentations	15%
Sustainability Report	30%

1. **Class Participation:** Class participation is very important. You will be expected to have done the week's reading before each class, and to come to class prepared to discuss the reading in depth. If you are not in class, then you are not participating (and your grade will suffer...a lot). Participation doesn't just mean talking a lot; it means making comments, asking questions, participating in simulations and being involved in discussion in ways that show you are thinking about the content of the readings.
2. **The Weekly Pithy Essays:** The essays will comment on the readings assigned for the week. The essays will include a concise summary and evaluation of the readings (One page maximum). These are due on the day of each class.
3. **Discussions and Leadership:** Each student is expected to lead a class discussion on assigned materials. Creativity is key.
4. **Group Project:** Students will form groups to examine a recreational issue of their choice based on rubric that will be provided in class.
5. **The Sustainability Report:** The purpose of this paper is to give you a chance to identify and explore an example of sustainable tourism in a selected country of your choice. This paper, of roughly 2500 words will discuss the management issues surrounding your example. The rubric for the report will be discussed in class in due course.
6. **Presentation of Final Report:** The purpose of this presentation is to give the student the opportunity to present his/her research to the class and ask for comments from peers.

The sustainability report topics must be approved by the professor. Please give me a one-page outline of the topic by **January 28th**. Second, each student will present his/her report between the weeks of **20th and 22nd April**. **Final report due on May 6th**. Please note: Late assignments are not accepted without a note from the proper authority

Date	Topic	Assignment Due Date
Jan. 19	Introduction to PRLS 402	
Jan. 21	Sustainability and Natural Resources	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Jan. 26	Tourism: A Natural Resources Perspective	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Jan. 28	Sustainable Tourism	TITLE OF REPORT DUE-ABSTRACT Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 2	Tourism: Impacts on Natural Resources	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 4	A Sociology Approach to Natural Resources	ONE PAGE PROJECT OUTLINE DUE Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 9	Sociology and the Environment	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 11	Role of Social Science in Natural Resources	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb 16	Social Impact Assessments	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 18	Environmental Impact and Strategic Impact Assessments	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb 23	Adaptive Management- Intro	Blackboard CE6 Readings
Feb. 25	Adaptive Management –What is it?	Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 2	Adaptive Management – When to use it	Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 4	Film	Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 9	Group Work Presentations	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION DUE
March 11	Spring Break - No class	SPRING BREAK
March 16	Spring Break - No class	SPRING BREAK
March 18	Values and Attitude in NR Management	Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 23	Vandalism a Behavior	Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 25	Vandalism: Legal Perspective	A DRAFT OF AT LEAST 1500-WORDS DUE Blackboard CE6 Readings
March 29	A Global Perspective on Natural Resource Management	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 1	Role of Public Involvement in Natural Resources	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 6	Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 8	Cultural Diversity and Natural Resource Management	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 13	Collaborative Resource Management	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 15	Conflict in Natural Resources	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 20	Final Student Project Presentations	Presentations
April 22	Final Student Project Presentations	Presentations
April 27	Project Work Day	Blackboard CE6 Readings
April 29	Review	Blackboard CE6 Readings

May 6	Sustainability Proposal Due	SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL DUE
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Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.



- ❖ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>]
- ❖ University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor
- ❖ Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See www.gmu.edu/student/drc]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>