

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
PRLS 405– Planning, Design, and Maintenance of Leisure Facilities (3 credits) Fall 2012

DAY/TIME:	Monday, 1:30 – 4:10 PM	LOCATION:	Bull Run Hall 247
INSTRUCTOR:	Jeff Marin	E-MAIL:	jmarin@gmu.edu
OFFICE:	N/A	PHONE:	(571) 238-3151
OFFICE HOURS:	By Appointment	FAX:	(703) 993-2025

PREREQUISITES: PRLS 310 or permission of instructor, and 60 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Covers quantity, location, and design standards for facilities. Includes safety, functionality, durability, and maintenance demand criteria in planning and design; programmatic and operational objectives to be met, including user comfort and convenience, crowd management, and traffic flow, and space relationships. Includes field study of local facilities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Understand the full life cycle of a facility from concept to operations
2. Describe the process for developing leisure facilities.
3. Discuss the role of market analysis and stakeholder involvement in facility planning and its importance in helping a facility realize its use and revenue potential.
4. Identify the factors of a site and facility design that have the greatest impact on the operation, revenue potential, and use of a variety of leisure and athletic facilities.
5. Understand key management, operating and financial considerations for a variety of facilities
6. Function as a productive member of a leisure facility management team.

Further, upon completion of this course, students will meet the following professional accreditation standards for the [Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions \(COAPRT\)](#):

- 8.11:01 Operating programs and services. Content to consider: How agencies are addressing inclusiveness within the operation of programs and services; including the policies, practices, philosophies, and benefits.
- 8.11:02 Design of areas and facilities. Content to consider: Location, environmental issues, populations to be served, programs to be housed, and fiscal and political implications of specific sites and settings.
- 8.12:01 Community development. Content to consider: The impact that program/plans will have on the immediate and surrounding communities, duplication of services, growth, and population(s) to be served.
- 8.14:05 Preparation, operation, and maintenance of venues. Content to consider: Planning, organizing, developing, and scheduling of routine, preventive, and emergency maintenance and operational tasks; managing of operational and maintenance personnel; and maintenance and replacement of equipment, natural resources, and structure and systems maintenance.

- 8.24 Ability to apply current technology to professional practice. Content to consider: Application of current technology separately and in integrated formats for professional practice. Examples of technology include the following: word processing, spreadsheets, database management, presentation and graphic software, and web page development. An example of applying current technology in an integrated format is the use of presentation software to include spreadsheet components.
- 8.25:01 Assessment. Content to consider: Social, environmental, and physical assessment and impact of the environment to determine its suitability for the development of recreational areas and facilities.
- 8.25:02 Planning. Content to consider: Basic planning models and principles as they relate to the development and construction of recreational areas/facilities.
- 8.25:03 Functional Design. Content to consider: Principles of functional design to maximize participation while maintaining a sound environment.
- 8.25:04 Evaluation. Content to consider: Principles and procedures for evaluating the appropriateness and functionality of a recreation area/facility.
- 8.25:05 Operation and maintenance. Content to consider: Basic operation and maintenance principles and procedures as they relate to the operation of a recreation area/facility.
- 9A.02 Understanding of and ability to utilize current technology for the management of leisure services, including organizing, marketing, implementing, and monitoring these services.
- 7B.04 Understanding of and ability to apply both traditional and innovative management, including development of budgets for operations and capital improvements, revenue generation and accountability, pricing of services, cost analysis and financial forecasting.
- 9B.07 Understanding of the principles of land-use planning, including identification, evaluation, development, and management of land and water resources and their relationship to and impact upon the natural environment.
- 9B.09 Understanding of the principles and techniques of planning, designing and developing recreation and park areas and facilities and their applications and environmental impacts in natural resource settings.
- 9A.02 Understanding of and ability to utilize current technology for the management of leisure services, including organizing, marketing, implementing, and monitoring these services.

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

1. **Knowledge Audits** – 40 points (8%) – These in-class exercises will test student understanding of assigned readings, both textbook and articles. This will be done five times during the course of the semester. Only the four highest will be counted towards the grade and each one is worth ten points. These audits will not be announced in advance. Students will be asked to respond in writing to a few basic questions about the assigned readings, such as identifying key points, citing advantages/disadvantages, etc. These audits will be graded on a scale of 0 – 10, based on how well the student comprehends the reading.
2. **In-Class Engagement** – 40 points (8%) - These in-class exercises will be informal and are intended to engage students with the material being covered. They will occur regularly in class and will require students to work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to discuss, strategize, brainstorm, design, or analyze issues, situations, or opportunities related to the course material. For some activities, notes will be turned in.
3. **Class Attendance and Overall Participation** – 20 Points (4%). Students are expected to attend and engage in class and participate in discussions. Students who have three unexcused absences will lose all 20 points from this category.

4. **Facility Analysis #1** – 30 points (6%) – Students will independently conduct a comparison of two facilities that are of the same type (i.e., campus recreation center, community recreation/aquatics center, athletic field complex, park) and provide a written summary of their findings. This will occur early in the semester and will require the student to gather basic information and compare and contrast the two facilities. The facilities do not need to be on the same campus or in the same jurisdiction. Since this assignment is early in the semester before much of the course material is covered, the information to be collected and compared will be fairly basic. A template for the written assignment will be provided.

5. **Facility Analysis #2** – 100 points (20%) – This assignment will be due toward the end of the semester and will require a more thorough understanding and analysis of facility planning, design, and operations. Students will independently visit a facility of their choosing and conduct a thorough assessment. A template will be provided outlining the information to be gathered and the format for analyzing and reporting. Students will be graded on how thorough the required information is presented, as well as the overall organization, flow, cohesiveness, and quality of writing (this includes grammar and spelling).

6. **In-Class Test** – 70 Points (14%) – There will be one in class test about half way through the semester. This test will include a combination of true/false, multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and short essay questions. The exam will cover materials from lectures, class discussions, PowerPoint presentations, and reading for that segment of the semester.

7. **Take Home Exam**– 100 Points (20%) – This exam will be assigned at the last class and will be due approximately one week later (exact date to be determined). The format will be short essays and will cover materials from lectures, site visits, class discussions and readings for the whole semester.

8. **Group Project** – 100 Points (20%) – In groups of 3-4, students will develop and describe a fictitious leisure facility, created within specific parameters that will be provided. Students will address various facility planning, design and operating issues. In the presentation, students will demonstrate an understanding of the issues, various conditions, and recommended processes/systems/solutions that will ensure that the new facility functions operationally and programmatically as planned both from a staff and user perspective. The format will be a 20- to 30-minute class presentation followed by a 10- to 15-minute Q&A discussion. The presentation (PowerPoint) will include the following information categories: overview of the facility; planning and design considerations; financial overview; and operational overview. Students will be graded on clarity and organization of the presentation, teamwork, quality of the class discussion, and quality of the PowerPoint presentation.

REQUIRED READINGS

Mull, Richard F., Beggs, Brent A., and Renneisen, Mick, 2009. “RECREATION FACILITY MANAGEMENT – Design, Development, Operations and Utilization”, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

Various articles from newsletters, journals and other sources will be assigned in advance to be discussed in class. These articles will be posted on Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED SUSCRIPTION

“*Athletic Business E-news Daily*” (students are encouraged to subscribe to this free newsletter and peruse at least 2 times per week). To subscribe, follow this link <http://athleticbusiness.com/enews/>

NATURE OF DELIVERY:

Face-to-Face

EVALUATION

Assignment	Points	%
Reading Knowledge Audits (4@10 points each)	40	8%
In class Engagement points	40	8%
Class Attendance and Overall Participation	20	4%
Facility Analysis #1 Compare/Contrast	30	6%
Facility Analysis #2 - Detailed Report	100	20%
In Class Test	70	14%
End of Semester Take Home Exam	100	20%
Group Project	100	20%
Total	500	100%

Make-up examinations will be conducted ONLY if prior permission is granted by the instructor.

Grading Scale (%)

A = 94 – 100	B+ = 88 – 89	C+ = 78 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A- = 90 – 93	B = 84 – 87	C = 74 – 77	F = 0 – 59

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1	August 27	Course Overview and Requirements	
Week 2	September 3	No Class – Labor Day	
Week 3	September 10	Facility Fundamentals and Types Master Planning	Assign Facility Analysis #1
Week 4	September 17	No Class - Rosh Hashanah	
Week 5	September 24	Needs Assessments, Data Gathering Methods, Feasibility Studies, and Business Plans	Facility Analysis #1 Assignment Due
Week 6	October 1	Design and Construction	
Week 7	October 9	Construction Financial Resources, Budget Planning and Cost Recovery	Review for Test
Week 8	October 15	In Class Test	Assign Group Project; Assign Facility Analysis #2
Week 9	October 22	Freedom Center Tour	Review Test
Week 10	October 29	Facility Management Topics	
Week 11	November 5	Community Engagement	
Week 12	November 12	Athletic Fields and Outdoor Facilities	Facility Analysis #2 Assignment Due
Week 13	November 19	Facility Management Topics, Miscellaneous Topics and Trends	
Week 14	November 26	Group Presentations	
Week 15	December 3	Group Presentations	Assign Take Home Exam – Due December 12th

*Note: Schedule subject to change by Instructor.

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles

