George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
School of Recreation, Health and Tourism

PRLS 210-002 Introduction to Leisure  
3 Credits, Fall 2018

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m., AFC 113

Faculty
Name: Evan Braff  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: N/A  
Office Phone: 703-627-3027  
Email Address: ebraff@gmu.edu

Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Traces the development of current concepts of recreation and leisure and their implications and consequences. Covers influences of philosophy, religion, science, economics, sociology, and politics on discretionary time and its uses.

Course Overview

Not applicable

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a lecture and/or hybrid on-line format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Develop a personal philosophy and broad awareness of leisure  
2. Describe major ideas, institutions, and forces that influence leisure in contemporary society  
3. Gain a full, in-depth understanding of the ties between leisure and challenges of the future.  
4. Understand the concept of the leisure profession and professional organizations, and the responsibilities of professionals in leisure and human services
Professional Standards

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

7.01: Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate the following entry-level knowledge:
   a) the nature and scope of the relevant park, recreation, tourism or related professions and
      their associated industries; b) techniques and processes used by professionals and workers in
      these industries; and c) the foundation of the profession in history, science and philosophy.

Required Texts


Service Living: Building Community through Public Parks and Recreation. Wellman, Dustin, Henderson, and Moore.

Tuesdays with Morrie. Mitch Albom.

Ultra Marathon Man: Confessions of An All-Night Runner. Dean Karnazes.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor
(e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

- Assignments and/or Examinations

A. Activity Participation and Economic Log (40 points):

Each of you will monitor and analyze a week’s worth of your recreation and leisure activities and
their expenses. This project must include logging and charting your behavior, as well as
documenting a brief analysis of your experience. Prior to the analysis, a chart provided by the
instructors must be filled in.

Focus of Paper:

- Amount of time spent and money spent in recreation activities – this will be done in a chart
  format
- Your thoughts and reactions to your participation in activities and spending
  - Connection between your activity involvement and spending to issues and concepts
    discussed in class or any relevant issues that you have read about or discussed with people
    outside of class.
  - Personal views and opinions

B. Article Readings( 20 points per paper)
You will be asked to read articles relating to the topic for the week. You must hand in a paper summary for each assignment (see modules).

**Due Date:** Weekly

C. **Mid-term (40 points)**

D. **Final (40 points)**

The Buried Life In-Class Presentation

Each student participates in a leisure activity that she has never done before. Each student will make a ten-minute presentation (power-point) regarding their experiences. Students will include the following in their presentations:

- Why you chose the leisure activity
- How activity was planned
- What the experience was like
- Relate topics and discussion from class and other class material to experience
- Provide video or pictures from the experiences in your presentation

**Other Requirements**
Attendance and Class Participation

**Other Requirements**
[e.g., attendance, participation]

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98 -100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93- 97</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 82</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70- 72</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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**Professional Dispositions**

See [https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/)

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction/Course Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion of the philosophy of leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is leisure, recreation, and play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
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| Week 2     | History of Leisure  
Basic Concepts of Leisure, Play, and Recreation  
Taboo Recreation  
Using Leisure for the Societal Good |
| Week 3     | Activity and Economic Analysis Due (no article need to be handed in) |
| Week 4     | Leisure and Health                                                   |
| Week 5     | Leisure and Politics                                                 |
| Week 6     | Leisure and Diversity, Sexuality, and Gender Roles                   |
| Week 7 and Week 8 | Service Living and Leisure and the Environment          |
| Week 9     | Mid-term Exam                                                        |
| Week 10    | What is Therapeutic Recreation?  
- The History of Therapeutic Recreation |
| Week 11 and Week 12 | Leisure Throughout Your Life Span                           |
| Week 13    | The Future of Recreation and Service Organizations:  
Future Trends, Future Technology; where is it all going  
**Leisure as a Profession:** What are the different professions in the recreation and leisure sector: |
| Week 14    | Bringing it all together                                             |
| Week 15    | **Final Exam Due**                                                   |

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

**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: [http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/](http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/).
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GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).

- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see https://ds.gmu.edu/).

- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.

- For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.
Assessment Rubric(s) for All Assignments

A. Activity Participation and Economic Log
   Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (content and reflection) - 15 points
   Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (format/writing style) – 5 points
   Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (utilization of classroom/reading assignments) – 5 points
   Economic Log – 5 points
   Activity Summary Log – 5 points
   Daily Summary Log – 5 points

B. Article Readings
   Reaction Paper (content and reflection) - 15 points
   Reaction Paper (format/writing style) – 5 points

C. Mid-term
   Mid-term content and reflection - 30 points
   Mid-term paper (format/writing style) – 10 points

D. Final
   The Buried Life In-Class Presentation
   Presentation Content (logic, focus on topic) - 20 points
   Presentation Format /Visual Organization (vocabulary, flow, writing style) - 20 points