

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

PRLS 302 (001) – Park Management and Operations
3 Credits, Fall 2021
1:30 – 4:10 pm Mondays, Horizon Hall Room 1011- Fairfax Campus

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

PRLS 300

University Catalog Course Description

Focuses on management and operations of park resources, including the management of visitors and recreation development. Emphasizes understanding of contemporary threats to park integrity and preservation of resources. Also covers maintenance management systems.

Course Overview

This course will be divided in to 5 learning modules. Each class Module may include guest speakers, field experiences, required reading, group activities and discussions. Class assignments and projects will require students to use critical thinking skills, practice public speaking and written communication.

Student contributions are an important part of this course. Students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions, group work, field experiences and to complete all assignments on time. **Assignments will be due** on the specified date due unless otherwise specified. **Assignments not received in class on the day they are due, will be considered late and receive a 10% deduction in points per 24 hour period.** If you have an extreme emergency there may be some exceptions; however, you'll need to discuss these issues with the instructor **prior to the due date** to be considered for an exception. It is also recommended that students make back-up copies of all assignments since computers have been known to crash at the most inopportune moments.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered as an in person course that will be a hybrid of formats that will include lectures, field experiences, seminar like experiences and group activities. Due to the uncertainties of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, if circumstances warrant a temporary shift to an on-line format, the course will be delivered via Blackboard Collaborate at the appointed class time.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. Identify the types of agencies that manage parks and the roles these agencies play in land management and provision of recreational opportunities.
2. Describe how land is acquired for parks and how parks are planned/ developed.
3. Define resource management in the context of park management and be able to discuss how managers balance the need for resource protection with recreational needs.
4. List indicators of resource overuse or increased visitor impacts to the park resources/ facilities and be able to discuss management alternatives for reducing impacts or recreational conflicts.
5. Discuss issues/ problems related to contemporary park operations and maintenance.

Professional Standards:

Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT):

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

Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT):

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.
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Required Texts

William E. Hammit and David Cole. (1998) "Wildland Recreation: Ecology and Management" 2nd Edition.

Williams, Terry Tempest. (2016) "The Hour of Land"

Handouts and other assigned reading will be distributed on Blackboard or in class.

Course Performance Evaluation

This course will be divided in to 5 Modules around important topics in the course. As part of each module there will be readings, videos and background materials related to the topics. Additionally students can expect a variety of assignments that may consist of discussion boards, short papers, group projects, etc... (Assignments vary by Module). Students are expected to submit all assigned work on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, email).

Students will be evaluated on the following:

Attendance:

Class Participation/Assignments: This will consist of assignments, discussions, individual projects, etc... All areas of this category will have specified due dates.

Group Projects (2): Assigned groups will work together to create a product for the course and will present their product to the instructor and/or the class.

Module Assessments (5): At the end of each 3-week module there will be a test/assessment where students will demonstrate their comprehension of the course topics and materials.

Assignment sheets with grading rubrics will be available to students on Blackboard and in class when the assignments are introduced.

Grading

Grading Scale

A+	97 – 100	B+	87 – 89	C+	77 – 79	D	60 – 69
A	94 – 96	B	84 – 86	C	74 – 76	F	0 – 59
A-	90 - 93	B-	80 – 83	C-	70 – 73		

Course Performance Evaluation Weighting

Requirements

Attendance	10 %
Class Participation/ Assignments	40%
Group Projects	20%
Module Assessments	30%
TOTAL	100%

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/> Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Class Schedule

DATE			TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
M	August	23	Module 1: Course Intro/ Park Systems	
M	August	30	Module 1: Park Systems	
M	Sept.	6	Labor Day Holiday: No class meeting	Unit Test On-line by 9/10
M	Sept.	13	Module 2: Land Acquisition/Planning	Park Project #1 Due 9/13
M	Sept.	20	Module 2: Land Acquisition/ Planning	Group Project In Class
M	Sept.	27	Module 2: Land Acquisition/ Planning	Module #2 Test Online by 10/1
M	October	4	Module 3: Resource Management	Field Trip #1 Meadowlark Gardens
T	October	12	Module 3: Resource Management	
M	October	18	Module 3: Resource Management	Module #3 Test Online by 10/22
M	October	25	Module 4: Visitor Experience	Field Trip #2 Leesylvania State Park
M	Nov.	1	Module 4: Visitor Experience	
M	Nov.	8	Module 4: Visitor Experience	Park Project #2
M	Nov.	15	Module 5: Contemporary Park Issues	Test Module 4 In Class/
M	Nov.	22	Module 5 Contemporary Park Issues	
M	Nov.	29	Module 5: Contemporary Park Issues	Case Study Group Project
M	Dec.	6	Reading Days	
M	Dec.	13	All Make-up Work Completed by This Date	Module #5 Test In Class

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students. See Blackboard for specific details on requirements and due dates for each Module.

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/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- 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 <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced 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://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>
- **Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:** As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at [703-380-1434](tel:703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at [703-993-2380](tel:703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling [703-993-8730](tel:703-993-8730), or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.

