

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

RMGT 210|001 Introduction to Recreation and Leisure
3 Credits| Fall 2022
Tuesdays, 4:30 P.M. – 7:10 PM| Thompson Hall L013

Faculty:

Name: Evan Braff

Office Hours: By

Appointment

Office Location: N/A

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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 Delivery Method:

This course will be delivered using a lecture 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 *Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT)* professional standard:

- 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

Russell, R. (2017). *Pastimes: The Context of Contemporary Leisure*. Venture Publishing.

Klinenberg, E. (2019). *Palaces for the People*. Crown.

Albom, M. (2002). *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson*. Crown.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on Blackboard and in class per instructor.

Assignments and/or Examinations

A. Activity Participation and Economic Log

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

You will be asked 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

D. Final

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

Grading Scale

A+ = 97-100	B+ = 88-89	C+ = 78-79	D = 60-69
A = 94-96	B = 84-87	C = 74-77	F = 0-59
A- = 90-93	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

Class Schedule

Date	Topic
Week 1	Introduction/Course Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the philosophy of leisure • What is leisure, recreation, and play • History of Leisure
Week 2	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	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	<i>Final Exam Due</i>

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/>.

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 VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- 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 “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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 or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 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/>.

Further information on assignments:

A. Time Diary: Activity Participation and Economic Log

Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (content and reflection) – 6 points

Activity Analysis (format/writing style) – 3 points

Inclusion of topics from class – 3 points

B. Article Readings

Reaction Paper (content, reflection, format and writing style) – 8 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

Total: 100 Possible Points

PRLS 210 Activity Participation Log

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Criteria 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.	Unsatisfactory (1) Missing required element AND does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Minimal (2) Missing required element OR does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Competent (3) Required element but does not fully present element	Outstanding (4) Includes required element; demonstrates understanding of the element
Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (content and reflection) COAPRT 7.01				
Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (format/writing style)				

Activity Analysis Reaction Paper (utilization of classroom/reading assignments) COAPRT 7.01				
Activity Summary Log				
Daily Summary Log				

