

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
PRLS 405-001: Planning, Design, & Maintenance of Leisure Facilities (3 credits)
Fall 2010

DAY/TIME:	M 1:30 – 4:10 p.m.	LOCATION:	Bull Run Hall 249
INSTRUCTOR:	Charles Parrish	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	cparrish@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	N/A	OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment

PREREQUISITES

PRLS 310 or permission
from instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles and techniques of planning, design and maintenance associated with parks, recreation and sports facilities. The course will cover the facility planning process and design standards for facilities. The importance of market analysis in facility planning and design, programmatic and operational objectives to be met, including user comfort and convenience, crowd management and traffic flow. A variety of leisure facilities will be examined including recreation centers, health clubs, athletic field complexes, playgrounds and golf courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Describe the process for developing leisure facilities for a community.
2. Discuss the role of market analysis in facility planning and its importance in helping a facility realize its use and revenue potential.
3. 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.
4. Function as a productive member of a leisure facility management team.

REQUIREMENTS and COURSE POLICIES

The course relies heavily on participative and experiential learning combined with theory and conceptual inputs. The requirements reflect the demands of the course. Students will be expected to respect the following policies.

- 1) Attend all classes for the entire class session.
- 2) Attend all team meetings for the entire meeting.
- 3) Prepare required readings and other assignments when due.
- 4) No cell phones (which includes no text messaging.)
- 5) Lap tops can be used for note taking only. If abuse is observed, a “no laptop policy will go into effect.
- 6) Participate in group/class activities. Participation is expected and is an essential part of class.

- 7) Plagiarism, cheating or any other form of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Honor Code committee of George Mason University.
- 8) No hats.
- 9) No grades or discussion of grades, test/exams or test appeals will be carried out over email due to its impersonal nature and security issues. Students can discuss their grades with the instructor over the phone or in person.
- 10) If a student misses a class or a meeting, it is the student's responsibility to find out what happened during that class or meeting and obtain the notes and assignments from another student in the class.
- 11) If you have a diagnosed and documented disability which may cause you to have difficulties with any portion of the policies and requirement of the course, please contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements for suitable alternative or accommodations can be made and coordinated with the Office of Disability Support Services.
- 12) No tape recording of lectures/classes is allowed unless there are extraordinary circumstances of which you have made the instructor aware.
- 13) There will be no make-up exams/assignments given without a valid university excuse that the instructor is notified 24 hours in advance. The excuse must be written and documented. The student must leave a home number or e-mail address to be contacted so a makeup can be scheduled.

REQUIRED READINGS

Sawyer, Thomas H, (Ed.) 2009. "FACILITY PLANNING & DESIGN for Health, Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport" 12th ed. New York: Sagamore Publishing Co.

Other readings may be assigned prior to participation in weekly class discussions and/or as part of weekly assignments.

EVALUATION

Course Requirements

1. Exam 1 (25 points)
2. Exam #2 (25 points)
3. Semester Project (20 points)
4. Class Participation/In class assignments/Quizzes (15 points)
5. Article Review (15 points)

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

Grading Scale

This course will be evaluated on a point system according to the current GMU undergraduate grading scale.

A = 94>100 A- = 90>93

B+ = 88>89 B = 84>87 B- = 80>83

C+ = 78>79 C = 74>77 C- = 70>73

D = 60 > 69

F = 0 > 59

Semester Project

Students will be asked to select and research a recreation, leisure, or sport facility and critically assess the venue based on the concepts covered throughout the course. Each student will produce a PowerPoint presentation of their findings. Presentations will be 20 minutes in length. No late presentations will be accepted. Each student will be asked to select and submit their presentation proposal to the instructor by October 18th. A copy of PowerPoint slides are to be given to the instructor on the day of his/her presentation. In grading the PowerPoint presentation, the content and substance of the presentation as well as the quality of the oral presentation and PowerPoint slides will be taken into consideration.

In the event of unanticipated schedule adjustments (i.e. weather, cancelations) and depending on class enrollment, presentations may be executed in groups.

Article Review

Select an article from any media source dealing with either 1) a contemporary technological or facility design feature(s) or 2) a risk management issue for a recreation, leisure, or sport venue. Summarize the article in no more than 2 pages (12 font, Times New Roman) by indentifying the feature or issue and discussing its significance. Attach the article to your review. Be prepared to discuss your findings.

COURSE OUTLINE

***Tentative Schedule**

Aug 30	Administrative Overview / Course Requirements / Introduction
Sep 6	Holiday: NO CLASS
Sep 13	Needs Assessments, Feasibility Studies: Planning Facilities (Chp 1 & 2)
Sep 20	Sustainable and Accessible Design (Chp 3 & 4)
Sep 27	Facility Finance / In class assignment
Oct 4	Ancillary Spaces & Signage (Chp 6 & 7)
Oct. 11	Exam #1
Oct 18	Indoor surfaces (Chp 8 & 10) / Project Proposal Due
Oct 25	Outdoor spaces / Bleachers (Chp 9, 11-12)
Nov 1	Aquatic Facilities & Playgrounds (Chp 13 & 14)
Nov 8	Recreation & Fitness Facilities (Chp 15-17)
Nov 15	Article Review Due / Sport Facility Design Trends (Chp 27)
Nov 22	Exam # 2
Nov 29	Presentations
Dec. 6	Presentations

*Note: Schedule subject to change by Instructor.



- ❖ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html>]
- ❖ 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 Office of Disability Resources and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>.

OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: “Ask a Librarian” <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES: The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.