

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

**PRLS 362—Cultural and Environmental Interpretation
Spring 2012_Section 001**

DAY/TIME:	M 1:30pm – 4:10pm	LOCATION:	ENGR 1103
PROFESSOR:	Dr. Min Park	EMAIL ADDRESS:	mparka@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	203 Prince William	PHONE NUMBER:	703-341-9846
OFFICE HOURS:	T 10:00pm – 12:00pm Or by appointment	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITES

PRLS 300 or PRLS 328 or TOUR 352 or Permission of the Instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focuses on communication processes and practices used to explain and interpret special characteristics of cultural and environmental resource sites for visitors. Conceptual principles for planning interpretive programs and multi-media delivery techniques are discussed. Methods for programming interpretive services, addressing multi-audience accessibility, and administration and evaluation of interpretive services used at recreation and tourism sites are also examined.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Comprehend how interpretation is important to the management of tourism, event and recreation resource sites;
2. Discuss principles of interpretation and communication;
3. Analyze interpretive materials and presentations; and
4. Evaluate interpretive programs with respect to its effectiveness and impact on visitor experience

REQUIRED READINGS

Textbook

Knudson, D.M., Cable, T.T., & Beck, L. (2003). *Interpretation of Cultural and Natural Resources*, 2nd edition. State College, PA : Venture Publishing, Inc.

Additional Readings

As presented in the additional reading list, readings will be placed on the Blackboard or Reserve (or E-Reserve) at the Johnson Center Library at Fairfax Campus, available through the electronic or conventional resources or distributed in class.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Face to face in classroom.

COURSE POLICY

The class will involve lectures, in-class discussions, class projects, and field trips. Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code. You are expected to attend all class sections, actively participate in class discussions, complete in-class exercises and fulfill all assignments. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the specified due date.

1. Turn off or silence all sound emitting devices before entering the classroom.
2. Attendance and participation are key elements to a successful learning experience. When tardiness or an absence is anticipated, it is the responsibility of the student to advise Dr. Park at a professionally appropriate time. However, notification alone does not necessarily excuse the absence. Further documentation should be offered and may be required. Advising Dr. Park of unexpected absence or tardiness should take place at the earliest opportunity.
3. Unless otherwise stipulated, assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date they are due. **A penalty will be given to late submission (up to one day). Assignments will not be accepted thereafter.** Excused absence does not necessarily change submission deadlines, but may be considered in negotiating an appropriate accommodation (if necessary). Opportunities to complete exams or submit assignments on other than scheduled or due dates/times, or to participate in other learning activities or receive tutoring necessitated by absence from class will only be provided if the absence is excused by the instructor.
4. In general, laptop computers may be used for note-taking and in-class topical research. Other activities during the class period (including work on projects unrelated to this class, social networking, recreational web-surfing, and personal entertainment) are distracting and professionally inappropriate. Always be prepared to refer to or take notes using a different medium in case computer use is restricted.
5. Students who require special accommodations due to disabilities (documented by the Office of Disability Services [<http://www2.gmu.edu/depts/unilife/ods/>]), or student athletes and student government officers who have duties that occasionally conflict with the class schedule must formally bring this to the attention of the instructor during the first week of the semester.
6. Students are encouraged to discuss class or content issues with Dr. Park in person. All e-mail inquiries will be answered, but appropriate time should be allowed for the e-mail to be received and a response formulated. Tutorial discussions will not be conducted using e-mail.
7. The George Mason University Honor Code [<http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>] applies to all aspects of this class. Students should be particularly attentive to University policies regarding plagiarism. Unless otherwise permitted, all assignments and elements thereof should be original and/or properly cited.

EVALUATION

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 400 possible points.

Course Requirements	Points
Semester Project	180
<i>Virtual Field Trip (team project)</i>	(120)
<i>Design a brochure (individual project)</i>	(40)
<i>Reflective journal (individual project)</i>	(20)
Mid Exam	100
Quizzes (Project presentations)	80
Class Activity	20
Attendance	20

Grading Scale - Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

To earn an:	Total points you must earn:	To earn an:	Total points you must earn:	To earn an:	Total points you must earn:	To earn an:	Total points you must earn:
A+	= 388 – 400	B+	= 347 – 359	C+	= 307 – 319	D	= 240 – 279
A	= 374 – 387	B	= 334 – 346	C	= 294 – 306	F	= 0 – 239
A-	= 360 – 373	B-	= 320 – 333	C-	= 280 – 293		

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Principles of interpretation
2. Foundations of interpretation
3. Effectiveness of interpretation on visitor experience
4. Evaluation of interpretation
5. Interpretive Writing and Publications
6. Signs and Exhibits
7. Living history: Historical and Cultural Interpretation
8. Guided Tours and Walks
9. Self-guided Tours and Walks

Note: See Class Schedule for more details. Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.
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.

