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 2020, Synchronous On-line Course
1:30 pm Mondays

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. In addition to weekly on-line class meetings, each Module may include guest speakers, required reading, group activities and discussions. Class assignments and projects will require students to use critical thinking skills, practice public speaking and written communication.

This on-line course will mainly utilize Blackboard to deliver course content but occasionally may use ZOOM if breakout sessions will be required as part of the class. Class meeting time is Monday at 1:30 p.m. and students are required to attend class at the class meeting times. These lectures typically will be recorded so that students can refer back to classes for the purposes of reviewing course materials. Watching the recordings will not be a substitute for your attendance in class.

Student contributions are an important part of this course. Students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions, discussion boards, any group work and to complete all assignments on time. **Assignments will be due at Midnight** on the specified date due unless otherwise specified**. Assignments received AFTER Midnight 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 exception. It is also recommend 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 online (76% or more) using a synchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will begin on Monday, August 24th at 1:30 p.m.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements
To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students will need **a functional video camera and headset microphone** for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements
- In this course Respondus Lockdown software (available from the University) will be required for taking the module assessments. See www.coursesupport.gmu.edu and go to the students sections and look up the information under Blackboard Assessments for Respondus Monitor and Lockdown Browser.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - Windows Media Player: https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/
  - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- Course Week:
  Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Friday.
- Log-in Frequency:
  Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials **every Monday** with a recommended **frequency of at least 3 times per week**. In addition, students can log-in for all scheduled online lectures or review sessions but these sessions will also be available as recordings.]
- Participation:
  Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence:
  Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:
  Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:
  Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the readings, activities and assignments due as part of each Module.
- Instructor Support:
  Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Because of operations during COVID, the instructor will be working remotely and will not be on campus so any meetings with the instructor will be via telephone or web conference. Students should email or text the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette:
  The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words*. Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations:
  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/).

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online and will have weekly meeting time on Mondays at 1:30 p.m.
In class time will be roughly 60 to 90 minutes per week and the remainder of the course will be
delivered via films and other class materials.

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.

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

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

Finney, Carolyn. (2014) "Black Faces, White Spaces:

Handouts and other assigned reading will be distributed on Blackboard

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: Students are expected to be on-line with the class at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays. On-line class times will be 60 to 90 minutes. In addition, each of the 3 work groups will have one 20 to 30-minute virtual meeting with the instructor during each of the 5 modules (5 meetings total) to touch base and discuss the course materials. These sessions are also good opportunities for students to clarify expectations and give feedback to the instructor. Attendance at these meetings is included in the overall attendance grade.

Class Participation/Assignments: This will consist of assignments, discussion boards, individual projects. 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 via Blackboard Collaborate, Zoom or other format as specified by the instructor.

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

Grading

Grading Scale
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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	20%
Class Participation/ Assignments	40%
Group Projects	20%
Module Assessments	20%
TOTAL	**100%**

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

	DATE		TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
M	August	24	Module 1: Course Intro/ Park Systems	
M	Sept.	31	Module 1: Park Systems	
M	Sept.	7	Labor Day Holiday: No class meeting	Park Project
M	Sept.	14	Module 2: Land Acquisition/Planning	
M	Sept.	21	Module 2: Land Acquisition/ Planning	
M	Sept.	28	Module 2: Land Acquisition/ Planning	Group Project/ Presentations
M	October	5	Module 3: Resource Management	
T	October	13	Module 3: Resource Management	
M	October	19	Module 3: Resource Management	Citizen Science Assignment
M	October	26	Module 4: Visitors	
M	Nov.	2	Module 4: Visitors	
M	Nov.	9	Module 4: Visitors	TBD
M	Nov.	16	Module 5: Contemporary Park Issues	
M	Nov.	23	Module 5 Contemporary Park Issues	
M	Dec.	30	Module 5: Contemporary Park Issues	Case Study Group Project
M	Dec.	7	Reading Days	
M	Dec.	11	All Make-up Work Completed by This Date	

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://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/ .