

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Development
School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management
RMGT 327-001—Foundation of Therapeutic Recreation -11306 (3)
Spring 2024

DAY/TIME:	Wed: 4:30p.m. - 7:10p.m.	LOCATION:	
PROFESSOR:	Patricia Harrison, CTRS, CPM	EMAIL ADDRESS:	pfrancke@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	Online	PHONE NUMBER:	301-535-0592 (cell)
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment		

PREREQUISITES: None

UNIVERSITY CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the processes and techniques of therapeutic recreation to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities. This course examines the history, concepts, theories, and foundations of therapeutic recreation.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will gain a basic understanding of the disabilities, impairments and illnesses most often encountered in the provision of therapeutic recreation services. Course materials, lectures and field observations explore the nature and perceptions of disability and their implications for leisure; problems with stigma and stereotypes; and the principles of normalization and inclusion. Course readings and assignments introduce therapeutic recreation models, the role of TR for vulnerable populations and persons with disabilities and illnesses in health care and community settings. Students will examine the application of TR in prevention services and the link between social, psychological, and physical health. Course topics and assignments will provide students with a look at how the principles and techniques of therapeutic recreation programming are applied from a systems perspective to include client assessment, specific programming planning, activity analysis, documentation, adaptation, and program evaluation.

The course lecture and assignments provide practical application of knowledge gained throughout the course to enable successful completion of the final assignment, a *Therapeutic Recreation Specific Program Plan*. To acquire the necessary knowledge, there are five assignments including an off-site program observation. Each assignment progressively forms the basis for your final assignment, the *Therapeutic Recreation Program Plan*.

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD

This course will be delivered in person (50% of all scheduled classes) and 40% on-line using Blackboard (Bb) and Blackboard Ultra housed in the MyMason portal and 10% at designated community facilities. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site to access course materials and online session in the blackboard ultra tool. Instructional methods include lectures, research sessions, group work, and student presentations. Unless otherwise noted in the course schedule, all in-person and on-line classes will be held on Wednesdays, 4:30 to 7:00 pm.

- In-Class Lectures: In-class sessions will provide instruction on theory, issues, and experiential learning materials.
- On-Line Lectures, Consultations and Group Work: On-line classes provide summary foundational TR materials, discussion of reading materials and group work. Online classes require connecting to Blackboard Ultra or another web-based group meeting format as scheduled. Under no circumstances, many students take part 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.
- Off-Campus Visitations: All off-campus/community visitations will require students to arrange their own

transportation. Directions to locations will be sent in advance of the off-campus class.

- Student Presentations (in-class and on-line): Three sessions provide students the opportunity to briefly present completed assignments in class. If preferred, students may present via a narrated PowerPoint slideshow with student questions session after the presentation.
- Self-Study/Final Project Consultation: Two class sessions provide out of class time for individual research/self-study days or work sessions to complete assignments.
- Assignments: There are 4 assignments to assess the student's ability to apply learning materials. For written assignments, you can choose to follow the guidelines of either the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA)* (6th Edition) or the *American Medical Association* (10th Edition).
- Post Lecture Quizzes: 3 Post lectures, on-line quizzes will assess learning of course objectives.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For classes scheduled On-line

- This course will use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students must have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)
- Activities and assignments in this course will use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate / Zoom). In addition to the requirements above, students must have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.

Course Recordings, Materials and Student Privacy

- Students will need high-speed internet access with a standard up-to-date browser supported by GMU.
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Course Recordings: Some/All our synchronous meetings in this class may be recorded to provide necessary information for students in this class. If classes are recorded, they will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking this course during this semester.
- Video recordings — whether made by instructors or students — of class meetings that include audio, visual, or textual information from other students are private and must not be shared outside the class.
- Live video conference meetings (e.g., Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio, textual, or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household or recorded and shared outside the class.

Testing On Course Content is On-line

This course will use Blackboard for testing online. You will need the following system requirements for online exams:

- Supported GMU operating systems and versions (Windows, Mac: OS, iOS: 10.0+ (iPad only)). Must have a compatible LMS integration [Details].
- A reliable internet connection
- Troubleshooting is available through the ITS Support Center.
- Ensure you have SAVED your responses before exiting the Blackboard testing tool.

EXPECTATIONS

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 at least 2 days before class and by noon on the day of class.

Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes:

- viewing all course materials in advance of the class session

- attend all class sessions.
- submit all required presentations and assignments by noon on the date designated for presentation to class.
- actively take part in class discussions
- complete **pre-class discussion worksheets designed to guide your discussion points during class.**
- submit all assignments by the due dates assigned.

Technical Competence: Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.

Technical Difficulties: Students should expect 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 weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities, and assignments due and be prepared for each class.

Instructor Support: Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content, assignments, or other course-related issues. Students should email the instructor to request a one-on-one (online) session.

Accommodations: Learners who require reasonable accommodation must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

- If necessary, the instructor will consider course work and deadline accommodations for students experiencing illness or quarantine. The students are responsible for complying with all GMU policies for requesting accommodations.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the key factors influencing the development and practice of TR as a profession to include historical events and legislation influences.
- Discuss the key foundational theories, concepts, and philosophy of therapeutic recreation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of therapeutic recreation programming models and principles and discuss the continuum theory in the delivery of leisure services for people with disabilities from treatment to independent recreation participation.
- Justify the health benefits of therapeutic recreation and discuss psychological and social implications of illness and disability.
- Distinguish between the roles of staff in the provision of therapeutic recreation in community and health care settings.
- Discuss the purpose and processes associated with group and individualized program planning.
- Analyze and design activities for therapeutic outcome: functional intervention, leisure education and recreation participation.
- Discuss the importance of and techniques for developing proper therapeutic relationships and using social networks and family in the planning and provision of services.
- Identify key components of ethical behavior in therapeutic recreation, responsibilities for professional development, cultural competence, credentialing, and professionalism in therapeutic recreation services.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION STANDARDS:

Further, upon completion of this course, students will meet the following professional accreditation standards through the 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 READINGS

The course will use:

- Course Text: Carter, Marcia Jean; Van Andel, Glen E. (2011-02-01). Therapeutic Recreation: A Practical Approach (Page v). Waveland Pr Inc. (in lieu of using text, students may use library resources on the selected topics to prepare for discussion and assignments)
- Articles, Websites, documents, and handouts
- Outside research and reading assignments

COURSE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- Unless otherwise noted, **assignments must be sent on or before the required due date to the designated assignment folder on our course Blackboard or to the VIA webpage <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments/>**. This allows for an “originality check” and an official learning record of required academic competencies. You can also view your own originality report. **All written papers are to be sent in WORD (doc) format.**
- Final Projects (Group Therapeutic Recreation Program Plan) must be **sent to VIA** through Blackboard (regardless of whether the student is taking the course as an elective, a onetime course or as part of an undergraduate minor). Evaluation of the performance-based assessment by the course instructor will also be completed in VIA through Blackboard. Failure to send the assessment to VIA (through Blackboard) will result in the course instructor reporting the course grade F. Note: The instructor may also require the Group TR Program Plan to be uploaded to a Blackboard Assignment link for evaluation.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specific due date.
 - **Papers received after the designated due date** will be considered late and will receive a 10% deduction for submissions up to 24 hours after the due date.
 - **Late assignments received past the 24-hour period** will receive a 20% deduction (per week) and no assignments will be accepted after 2 weeks post due date. If you encounter extreme emergencies or are taking part in a pre-approved university-sponsored function, exceptions may be made; however, these must be discussed with me to decide if they fall in this category. It is strongly recommended you make a back-up copy of any work submitted since computers are known to crash at the most inopportune times.
- Grading of assignments will be evaluated based on the following:
 - “A” level score: Student meets all assignment criteria and discusses all required information points, completed assignments “go above and beyond” (superior in-depth topic discussion, presentations include multimedia elements to elaborate points. Student’s work is well organized, exceptionally thorough, and thoughtful, concise, and clear, and completed in a prompt manner. Students support assertions with concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of insights/observations are exceptionally well explained.
 - “B” level score = Student’s work is well organized, thorough, and thoughtful, clear, and completed on time and followed all format and component guidelines satisfactorily. Students support assertions with sufficient concrete examples and/or explanations. Significance and/or implications of observations are satisfactorily explained.

- “C” level score = Student provides cursory responses to assignment requirements and followed all minimum format and component guidelines, and discussion of topic area is brief with minimum statements to show full independent understanding of topic.
- “D” level score = Student’s work does not discuss all required elements of the assignment and development of ideas is somewhat vague, incomplete, or rudimentary. Compelling support for assertions is not supplied satisfactorily.
- “F” level score = Student’s work is so brief that any reasonably accurate assessment is impossible.

Assignment 1: Disability Profile (250 points)

Acquire a detailed understanding of a specific disability, their treatment needs, functional abilities, and the types of therapeutic recreation activity that meets the leisure related needs of the disability or diagnostic group. Students will prepare a Disability Profile and present key information to class. This assignment may be completed individually or in a small group (2 students). Students will use the associated course text chapter or research to prepare a 10-minute presentation for the class. Students may create a narrated PowerPoint slide show as an option to a class presentation.

Assignment 2: TR Modalities and Facilitated Activities (150 points) pages 83 -101

Research and present a facilitated therapeutic activity outlined in the course text or the provided list. Facilitated techniques frame, guide, or inform the practice of therapeutic recreation. Students will prepare a brief powerpoint overview of the specific TR Modality or Facilitated Activity to include description, settings, populations, outcomes, and specific techniques for applying the activity. Students may create a narrated PowerPoint slide show as an option to presenting in class.

Assignment 3: Case Studies/Individual Service Plan (100 points)

Cases will be presented to aid students to think critically and apply Therapeutic Recreation concepts and strategies in the development of individual program plans. Topics may the application of least restrictive environment, beneficial outcomes, the person first philosophy, using the therapeutic recreation process in community settings, and development of individual recreation and leisure strategies for leisure education and inclusion in community recreation.

Assignment 4: Therapeutic Recreation – Therapeutic Recreation Specific Program Plan (400 points)

Develop a program plan for a specific disability group that includes rationale for program, purpose appropriate goals, objectives, performance measures, selected activities, and evaluation method. Students may create a narrated PowerPoint slide show as an option to a class presentation.

Grading Rubric in VIA (core competencies Therapeutic Recreation)

COAPRT	Unsatisfactory (1)	Minimal (2)	Competent (3)	Outstanding (4)
Rationale for Intervention - Describe the treatment for areas for intervention associated with the disability and describe how this program will meet those needs. COAPRT 7.02	Missing required element AND does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Missing required element OR does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject.	Required element but does not fully present element	Includes required element; demonstrates understanding of the element.
Purpose of Program, Goal, Objectives, Performance Measures COAPRT 7.02	Missing required element AND does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Missing required element OR does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Required element but does not fully present element	Includes required element; demonstrates understanding of the element
Theories and Concepts Applied COAPRT 7.02	Missing required element AND does not demonstrate	Missing required element OR does not demonstrate	Required element but	Includes required element; demonstrates

	understanding of the content area subject	understanding of the content area subject	does not fully present element	understanding of the element
Structure and Resources COAPRT 7.02	Missing required element AND does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Missing required element OR does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Required element but does not fully present element	Includes required element; demonstrates understanding of the element
Evaluation Plan COAPRT 7.02	Missing required element AND does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Missing required element OR does not demonstrate understanding of the content area subject	Required element but does not fully present element	Includes required element; demonstrates understanding of the element

Post Lecture Assessment of Learning Objectives and class participation (100 points)

Complete 3 on-line quizzes to assess understanding of the critical concepts, theories, populations served, and methods used in the application of TR settings.

Graded Point System

Course grade is based on a point system, with a possible 1000 total points for assignments, exams, and participation.

Requirements	Points
Assignment 1 Profile of Selected Disability	250
Presentation and moderator of discussion - 250 pts	
Peer Discussion (sharing minimum 2 comments, questions, experiences- 250 pts	
Assignment 2 Discussion of Selected Facilitated TR Interventions/Methods	150
Presentation and moderator of class discussion - 150 pts	
Peer Discussion (sharing minimum 2 comments, questions, experiences- 150 pts	
Assignment 3 Therapeutic Recreation Program/Intervention Plan	400
Assignment 4 Case Studies/Individual service plan	100
Post session quizzes – quiz 1 30 pts, quiz 2 40 pts, quiz 3 30 pts	100

Grading Scale

A+ = 1000 – 985	B+ = 899 – 885	C+ = 799 – 785	D = 600 – 690
A = 984- 930	B = 884 – 830	C = 784 – 730	F = 00 – 590
A- = 929 – 900	B- = 829 – 800	C- = 729 – 700	

Professional Disposition

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

Class Schedule

Class is held Wednesday at 4:30 pm unless otherwise noted in the detailed class schedule attached. 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 for activating their Mason email account and checking it regularly to view university communications. All communications to students are sent from the university, college, school, and program **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must register with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodation 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 about 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 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 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek help from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>
- For more information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.

Course Schedule – RMGT 327 Spring 2023

Assignment 1 Profile of Selected Disability	250
Assignment 2 Discussion of Selected Facilitated TR Interventions/Methods	150
Assignment 3 Case Studies/Individual Service Plan	100
Assignment 4 Therapeutic Recreation Program/Intervention Plan	400
Post session quizzes (3) (25 pts + 50 pts + 25 pts)	100

Please note that the course schedule may change including guest speakers, locations, in class designation, and the topics covered. Students will be notified at least 4 days in advance if there are changes. **

Date	Topic	Required Reading	Assignment Information
January 17 In class	Topics covered: 1) Defining Therapeutic Recreation, 2) Philosophy of TR, 3) TR History, 4) Today's Health-Care System, 5) Professional Standards	Chapters 1 PowerPoints Articles	
January 31 In class	Topics: 1) Therapeutic Recreation Practice Models: 2) Identify the roles, settings, and responsibilities common to therapeutic recreation; 3) Identify the service goals and outcomes of therapeutic recreation 4) common TR facilitated therapies/approaches	Chapters 1 & 3 Research articles	
February 7 Online class	Topics: 1) Techniques for Working with People with Disabilities and Inclusion 2) Theories and Concepts guiding the practice, design, and implementation of TR Guest: Sandi Dallhoff, Division Director for FXC Therapeutic Recreation	Chapter 1, 3 PowerPoints	
February 14 (No class session)	Research Day Research Assignment 1: facilitated TR approaches/interventions Chapter 3 Research Assignment 2: Disability Profile Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12		Quiz 1 due
February 21 On-line	Disability presentation Assignment 1 Cognitive Impairments; Psychological Impairments; Social Impairments (and juvenile/Adult Incarceration); Aging Process;	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12	Assignment 1 Due
February 28 Off campus location	Who are People with Disabilities and Effective Use of Sensory Rooms in TR? Guest: Sandi Dallhoff, Division Director for FXC Therapeutic Recreation Location: Providence Community Center (Vienna Metro), 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax VA 22031	Chapter 3 Chapter 1 pg. 12	
March 6 On-line	Spring Break March 13		
March 20 In-Class	Specific Program Planning and the Therapeutic Recreation Process 1) Describe components of TR Process and specific program plans (group and individual plans) to include assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation (APIE) of group & individual program plans. 2) Identify professional standards of practice and competencies that influence program planning. Developing Program Goals, Objectives, Measures and Activity analysis 3) Write measurable goals, objective statements, and performance measures using TR Programming formats Describe the processes used to select activities and strategies appropriate to meet program objectives	Chapter 4 pages 107 – 152 PowerPoint Articles Worksheets	Assignment 2 due
March 27 Online	Activity Planning and Activity Analysis Presentations of Facilitated interventions and TR Modalities Health and TR – Supporting Treatment and Wellness	Chapter 4 presentation	Assignment 2 Due

April 3 Online- class	<p>Review and discussion of Sample Group and Individual Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Individual Service Planning and Documentation • APIE-D Assessment, Individual Planning, Evaluation and Documentation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwCJYvFdhEM <p>Preview of Video documentary – A Cerebral Game</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Sandi Dalhoff, TR Division Director</p>	Chapter 4 (Pages 110 – 121) PowerPoint Work sheets	Quiz 2 due
April 10 Online class	<p>Opportunity for consultation and review of student’s draft TR Program/Intervention Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students share their ideas for development of their program/intervention plan and begin work on the plan. • Opportunity to schedule 1:1 consultation with instructor to review drafts, brainstorm approach 		
April 17 Online class	<p>Legislation affecting TR, Ethics, and Standards of conduct. Student’s Review of Individual Services Plans</p>		Assignment 3 due
April 24 In Class	<p>Presentation of student’s TR Plans</p>		Assignment 4 Due
May 1 On-line final quiz due	<p>Final Quiz and assessment of Course Learning Objectives</p>		Final Quiz 3 due
<p>Instructor reserves the right to adjust schedule and venue to meet the instructional needs of students and accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Students must check Blackboard and GMU email for updates.</p>			

