

**CSUS 276**  
**Sustaining Our National Parks and Recreation Lands**

**Spring 2018**  
**Monday and Wednesday, 12:40-2:00PM**  
**152 Natural Resources Bldg.**

**Instructor**

Dr. Chuck Nelson, 142 Natural Resources Bldg.  
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Office Hours: 10:00 – 11:30PM Wednesday or by appointment

**Catalog Course Description**

Scope, history and management of federal, state and local public recreation lands. Future management options strengthening sustainability. Careers in natural resource recreation.

Pre-requisite: None

Credits 3: (Lecture/Recitation/Discussion)

**INTRODUCTION**

This course introduces students to sustainable outdoor recreation, the natural resources that support it and the many organizations that directly and indirectly that provide for outdoor recreation. It covers the scope and management of participants, public and private lands and waters, businesses, non-profits and governmental units that serve outdoor enthusiasts. The array of careers in the field is described in detail by those working the in the public, commercial and non-profit sectors. Students will investigate a natural resource recreation site and provider of their choosing to better understand provider organizations and the resources they manage.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will understand the historical and current range of natural resource based recreation and motives for participation.
2. Students will understand the historical and current status of land, water, forest, and wildlife resources that provide the basis for natural resources recreation.
3. Students will understand the basic resource management philosophies under which resources and recreation opportunities are sustained through management and their historical antecedents in relationship to US history and natural resource recreation.
4. Students will understand the motivations and the mandates of public, commercial and non-profit resource managers who provide natural resource recreation opportunity.
5. Students will comprehend the range of values citizens associate with natural resource recreation and public lands in the United States.

6. Student will have an overview of the roles and responsibilities of land managers regarding natural resource based recreation.
7. Students will understand the array of career options in natural resource recreation in the public, commercial and non-profit sectors and examine in depth one organization and career choice.
8. Students will be able to demonstrate accomplishment of 1-7 on objective examinations.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Required Texts:**

Jensen, C. and Guthrie, S. 2006. Outdoor Recreation in America. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics

#### **Exams**

There will be four exams during the course of this semester. They will include a mixture of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions. **There will be no opportunity for extra credit other than those the instructor provides to all students on the exams and speaker highlights.** No one will be excused from taking exams at the time scheduled without PRIOR permission of the instructor. If you attempt to contact me and I am not available, it is your responsibility to leave an email message or a phone message with a way to contact you. The instructor's notes, videos and handout materials will not be posted on the internet. **BE IN CLASS!**

#### **Speaker Highlights**

For each guest speaker, student will hand write an in-class speaker highlights paper of 1 page that details the key remarks and insights provided by each guest speaker. The paper for each speaker will be worth up to 5 points. Should there be more than 5 guest speakers, points for highlights will still be awarded for each speaker, providing an opportunity for extra credit points.

#### **Natural Resource Recreation and You**

In a paper of 2-3 pages single spaced excluding title page and references due on 1/24/18 discuss how the following factors have influenced **your interests and participation** in NR recreational activities:

- Friends, family and experiences throughout your life including childhood;
- Most important NR recreation activity to you and why
- Most important NR recreation site you visited and why
- Living in the MSU/Lansing area and one other place that you have lived;
- Current age;
- Current economic condition;
- Current personal mobility, both physical and access to transportation;
- Other relevant factors (factors that have influenced your NR recreation behavior and are not included in the list above);
- How you see natural resource recreation as part of your life going forward including your career plans and your experiential goals

#### **NR Recreation Organizational Paper**

Individually or in a group of 2-4 students, select a natural resource recreation **activity** in which all participate or at least have a strong interest, even if all have not participated. Then, locate an entity that offers, facilitates or manages this activity and one in which you can communicate with a knowledgeable employee. This could be a public, commercial or non-profit entity. Review the organization's website to gain understanding and as much information as possible to answer B below. For those questions unanswered and to better understand career opportunities related to this activity/organization, make an appointment and interview a knowledgeable organization member and gather the remaining information:

- A. Describe the activity. Each group member should describe his/her history and involvement with that activity as a participant, spectator and a manager.
- B. Describe the organization:
  - mission statement of the organization (if none, explain and write one of 2-3 sentences);
  - whether it is for-profit, non-profit or governmental;
  - sources of funding/revenue for organization (use fees, licenses, permits, equipment rentals, equipment sales, etc.)
  - description (demographic profile) of the users/participants/target market
  - trend over past decade in the amount of users/uses (if none available, use national data for the activity)
  - organization's policies related to sustainability
  - organization's plans for improvement over the next 5 years
  - relationship of funding, use, sustainability and improvement plans to mission
  - suggestions your group has for entity in better meeting mission
- C. Appendix: Provide the written questions used during your interview and the full name, title and address of the manager/owner who was interviewed. Include a copy of the thank you sent to the employee you interviewed.

In this paper use appropriate headings and sub-headings and document your knowledge through use of course notes and references to readings. This paper should be 2-5 pages, single spaced, excluding title page, reference list, and appendix and is due on 4/18/18.

#### **COURSE EVALUATION**

	Possible Points	Percentage of Grade
Exams	200	66.7%
Speaker Highlights	25	8.3%
NR Rec. and You	25	8.3%
Paper		
NR Rec	50	16.7%
Organization Paper		
Total	300	100.0%

All grading will be on a straight scale with:

90% or more	= 4.0	=	270 or more points
85% - 89.94%	= 3.5	=	255 - 269 points
80% - 84.94%	= 3.0	=	240 – 254 points
75% - 79.94%	= 2.5	=	225 – 239 points
70% - 74.94%	= 2.0	=	210 – 224 points
65% - 69.94%	= 1.5	=	195 – 209 points
60% - 64.94%	= 1.0	=	180 – 194 points
Less than 59.95%	= 0.0	=	Less than 180 points

### **Academic Integrity**

[Article 2.III.B.2](#) of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the Department of Community Sustainability adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, [Protection of Scholarship and Grades](#); the all-University Policy on [Integrity of Scholarship and Grades](#); and [Ordinance 17.00](#), Examinations.

## CLASS CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READING(S)
	<b>SECTION I HISTORY AND MOTIVATIONS</b>	Jensen and Guthrie (J&G)
M 1/8	Introduction to NR recreation and linkages to sustainability; <i>Greening of Mid-Michigan video</i>	J & G Chapter 1
W 1/10	Concepts of recreation, leisure, play and work	
M 1/15	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No class</b>	
W 1/17	How did we get where we are: Exploitation, conservation and preservation	J & G Chapter 2
M 1/22	Careers with the US Forest Service: <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> , Tom Tidwell, Chief (retired) US Forest Service	
W 1/24	Key people, accomplishments and challenges <i>Segments of The National Parks: America's Best Idea video</i>	J & G Chapter 8
M 1/29	Key people, accomplishments and challenges <i>Segments of The National Parks: America's Best Idea video</i>	
	<b>NR Recreation and You Paper Due</b>	
W 1/31	<b>Exam #1</b>	
M 2/5	Benefits of and Barriers to NR Recreation	J & G Chapters 3-5
W 2/7	Overview of natural resources, land and resource ownership and NR importance to recreation and other values	J & G Chapter 6
M 2/12	Overview of government, non-profit and private perspectives and ownerships	
W 2/14	National Park Service: The Flagship Nature Parks <i>Segments of The National Parks: America's Best Idea video</i>	
M 2/19	Careers with the National Park Service: - <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> Paul Labovitz, Superintendent of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (confirmed)	J & G Chapter 9
W 2/21	National Park Service: Urban and Near Urban Parks - <i>Segments of The National Parks: America's Best Idea video</i>	J & G Chapter 9
M 2/26	National Park Service: History and the Parks - <i>Segments of The National Parks: America's Best Idea video</i>	J & G Chapter 9
W 2/28	<b>Exam #2</b>	
M & W 3/5 & 3/7	<b>SPRING BREAK --- NO CLASS</b>	

M 3/12	US Forest Service and Wilderness – <i>Segments of Continuing Forest Video</i>	J & G Chapters 7 & 10
W 3/14	US Fish and Wildlife Service – <i>Segments of America's Wildest Places video</i>	J & G Chapter 11
M 3/19	Bureau of Land Management – <i>Segments of The People's Land Video</i>	J & G Chapter 11
M 3/21	Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation	J & G Chapter 12
M 3/23	State public sector: Parks, wildlife areas, boating access, forests and trails in Michigan	J & G Chapter 13
M 3/28	Local public sector and rail trails - <i>Making the Connection video</i>	J & G Chapter 14
<b>M 4/2</b>	<b>Exam #3</b>	
	<b>SECTION III CAREERS AND INNOVATIONS IN NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION</b>	
W 4/4	Career opportunities in the Future of NR Recreation	
M 4/9	<b>No class – Instructor presenting at National Environment and Recreation Symposium</b>	
W 4/11	NR Recreation Careers in the US Forest Service – <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> Diane Walker, Assistant District Ranger, Manistee National Forest (tentative)	
M 4/16	Careers in State Parks and related areas – <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> Ron Olson, Chief MI DNR Park and Recreation Division (confirmed)	
W 4/18	Careers with local NR based park and recreation providers – <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> Tom Olson, Clinton County Park and Green Space Coordinator (confirmed) <b>ORGANIZATION PAPER DUE</b>	
M 4/23	Careers in the Non-Profit Sector – <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> Bob Wilson, Executive Director Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (confirmed)	J & G Chapter 16
W 4/25	Careers with local urban park and recreation providers - <b><u>Guest Speaker</u></b> , Brett Kaschinske, Director, Lansing Parks and Recreation (confirmed)	J & G Chapter 21
<b>MON 4/30</b>	<b>Exam # 4 – Monday April 30 from 12:45 - 2:45 PM in Room 152 NR</b>	

Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy the great outdoors in your work and play! If you are interested in becoming a Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism major, see me or Student Advisors Frances Kaneene at [kaneene@msu.edu](mailto:kaneene@msu.edu) or Dr. Mike Everett at [everettm@msu.edu](mailto:everettm@msu.edu).