

PRR 213

INTRODUCTION TO PARKS, RECREATION AND LEISURE

Spring Semester 2006

Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies
Michigan State University

CLASS:	Monday and Wednesday 3:00 - 4:20 PM	INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Chuck Nelson
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CLASSROOM:	155 Communication Arts	EMAIL:	nelsonc@msu.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	Wednesday 10:00am – Noon or by appointment		

INTRODUCTION

Our society has developed important social institutions, which enable us to pursue personal fulfillment. One of these institutions is loosely identified as leisure services. This course is designed to orient students majoring in Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources to the conceptual foundations, constellation of services, and management issues associated with the profession. It is also designed for people undecided about a career or in another career path to better understand the field of parks, recreation and tourism and the importance of leisure service to them and society.

Primary focal points for this course include:

- a) historical and philosophical foundations of the parks and recreation field
- b) the demand for resources and services
- c) the types of resources and services and how they are managed
- d) career and professional opportunities
- e) significance of recreation and leisure in your life.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to enable you to:

- explore the rudiments of historical and current views of recreation, leisure, play and work;
- formulate personal working definitions for the above mentioned concepts and begin developing a professional philosophy;
- become aware of professional responsibilities and resources;
- understand the basic motivations for recreation participation for various segments of society;
- examine the recreation resource and delivery systems in the public and private sectors;
- investigate the various aspects of the field including tourism, commercial recreation, natural resource based recreation, visitor information services, programming, planning, research, and therapeutic recreation.
- interview a park and recreation professional to discuss park, recreation or tourism resource management regarding a preferred recreation activity.

WRITING SKILLS

Writing skills are important to any profession. All written work is to be professional, with attention paid to elements such as organization, clarity, grammar and spelling. Give yourself time and opportunity to revise your work prior to its final submission.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Edginton, C., DeGraaf, D., Dieser, R. and Edginton, S. 2006. Leisure and Life Satisfaction: Foundational Perspectives, 4th ed. Boston, MA. McGraw Hill

PRR 213 (Nelson) Spring 2006 Coursepack from Budget Printing (Trowbridge Plaza)

ASSIGNMENTS

ASSIGNMENT #1 (two sections) **PERSONAL DEFINITION OF RECREATION - Due: February 15**
2-3 typed single spaced pages not including title page or reference page. (70 points)

- A. State clearly your definition of recreation. Describe the elements of this definition and why you believe that they are important. Present a definition of recreation from the literature and discuss why you selected this particular definition. Compare and contrast your definition with the definition from the literature. Then, use the literature (your texts and other Park and Recreation literature **not** the dictionary) to define "leisure," "play" and "tourism" and explain how these concepts relate to your definition of recreation. Also, discuss if recreation is the antithesis of work.
- B. **Discuss** how the following factors have affected your current participation in recreational activities:
- MSU/Lansing area and one other place that you have lived;
 - current age;
 - current economic condition;
 - current personal mobility (physical and mechanical);
 - friends and family influence (and preferred social group);
 - experiences, training, opportunities as a child; and
 - other relevant factors (factors that have influenced your recreation behavior and are not included in the list above);
- * Note: Relating elements of your paper to readings concerning these factors from your text and class discussion is beneficial.

ASSIGNMENT #2 MANAGEMENT OF LEISURE SERVICES (Group Paper) - Due: April 12

In a group of 3-5 students, select a recreation activity in which all participate or one in which all have a strong interest, even if not all have participated. Locate a recreation service organization that offers this activity. Make an appointment to interview an organizational manager responsible for the activity and gather the following information:

- A. Describe the activity and the history of each group members' involvement with that activity (participant, spectator, provider).
- B. Choose a site where the activity is offered and discuss the management of that site. In your discussion include:
 - mission of the organization and management objectives of the site or facility;
 - whether the personnel, facilities and/or natural resource(s) that directly support the activity are provided by the government or private sector;
 - whether the provision of the activity profit-oriented (if not profit-oriented, but fees are collected, where do the fees go?);
 - explanation of the annual operating budget for the site (or organization if the site cannot be separated from the organization budget). This includes the number of full-time and seasonal employees and the percentage and amount budgeted toward wages/benefits; contractual services, supplies and materials; vehicles and travel; and all other expenses.
 - the sources of funding for this budget AND the percentages each source comprises of the total operating budget;
 - description (demographic profile) of the users/participants at the site, accommodations for those with disabilities, and focus on special populations;
 - overview of the visitor information system/promotional efforts/marketing strategies used to reach clients/visitors/users.
- C. In addition, from your interview *discuss* two challenges confronting the managers of the activity. If the person you interview suggests no challenges, your group needs to suggest two based on your observations, the interview and the literature. These challenges may be related only to your specific activity site or be common wherever the activity is provided. Cite an article in the park, recreation and tourism literature for each challenge you discuss.
- D. To conclude the paper, **EACH** student is to describe his/her impressions of the organization and how it manages the selected activity. Also, **EACH** student shall state specifically how this investigation has affected his/her view of the activity of interest and recreation services in general.
- E. Appendix: Provide the written questions used during your interview and the full name, title and address of the manager who was interviewed. Include a copy of the professional letter you jointly sent thanking the manager for his/her assistance.

In this paper document your knowledge through use of course notes and references to readings. Length: 4-5 pages single spaced, excluding title page, reference list, and appendix. (85 group points and 15 individual points).

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Late assignments will be deducted 10 points per day late.
- No one will be excused from taking exams or handing in assignments at the times scheduled without **PRIOR** permission of the instructor or a written doctor's excuse. If for some reason I am out of the office, be *sure* to leave a message on my voice mail (432-0272) or send me an e-mail. Don't forget to leave your name, phone number and email.
- Individuals who miss class are expected to make arrangements with fellow students to obtain the material presented. The instructor's lecture notes or any videos will **not** be duplicated for make-up purposes.

EVALUATION

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
1. Exam I (Feb. 6)	110
2. Exam II (March 1)	110
3. Exam III (April 3)	110
4. Exam IV (May 8)	100
5. Assignment #1 Individual Paper (Feb. 15)	70
6. Assignment #2 Group Paper (April 12)	100
	600 Total Points

FINAL GRADE

Final grade is based on the following scale:

4.0	=	540 – 600 points
3.5	=	510 – 539 points
3.0	=	480 – 509 points
2.5	=	450 - 479 points
2.0	=	420 – 449 points
1.5	=	390 – 419 points
1.0	=	360 – 389 points
0.0	=	Below 360

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings (to be completed by class)
Historical Antecedents and Definitions		
Jan. 9	Parks, recreation, tourism and leisure in your life	
Jan. 11	Definitions, philosophies and theories of play, leisure, recreation and work	Chapter 2
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – No Class	
Jan. 18	Definitions, philosophies and theories continued	
Jan. 23	Leisure and recreation in early world history	Chapter 3 (pgs. 67 - 80)
Jan. 25	Leisure and recreation in US history	Chapter 3 (pgs. 80 - 111)
Jan. 30	Leisure and recreation in popular culture	Chapter 5
Feb. 1	Leisure and recreation in the world today	Cordes and Ibrahim
Feb. 6	EXAM 1	
Influences on Recreation Participation		
Feb. 8	Individual motivations for recreation and leisure	Chapter 1
Feb. 13	Influence of life cycle on recreation and leisure	Chapter 6
Feb. 15	Socio-economic influences on recreation and leisure ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE 2/15	Chapter 5
Feb. 20	Cultural diversity in recreation and leisure:	Chapter 15
Feb. 22	Benefits of recreation and leisure to society	Chapter 4
Feb. 27	Professionalism in parks, recreation and tourism	Chapter 14

Date	Topic	Readings
March 1	EXAM 2	
March 6 & 8	Spring Break – No Class	
	Recreation Delivery System	
March 13	Local recreation provision	Chapter 7
March 15	Rail – Trails: linking communities and local parks: Life of a Rail-Trail Video	
March 20	State recreation provision	Chapter 8
March 22	Federal recreation provision	Chapter 9
March 27	Non-profit and employee recreation services	Chapter 10
March 29	Commercial recreation provision	Chapter 11
April 3	EXAM 3	
	Careers in Parks, Recreation and Tourism	
April 5	Tourism	Holecek
April 10	Commercial recreation enterprises – Guest speaker Dr. Ed Mahoney, Dept. CARRS	
April 12	Community based recreation ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE 4/12	Chapter 13
April 17	Therapeutic recreation	Chapter 12
April 19	Natural resource based recreation	Nelson et al.
April 24	Recreation planning and research	Russell and Mowren
April 26	The future of parks, recreation and tourism	Chapter 16
May 1	Monday EXAM 4 at 3-5PM in Room 155 Communication Arts	

Have a great summer and enjoy some recreation!!!!