

FOR 335: Recreational Use of Forests and Parks

Fall 2022

Course Description and Objectives

The immense popularity of recreation in forests and parks is reflected in the more than 450 million visits made to U.S. national forests and national parks each year. Nature-based recreation – on federal, state, local, and private lands – provides countless benefits to people and society, including opportunities to improve physical health, restore mental well-being, spend quality time with family and friends, and reconnect with nature. Moreover, these experiences can foster support for the protection of these places. However, growing enthusiasm for recreation in forests and parks is not without consequence. Too much or inappropriate recreational use can degrade the natural environment and impact the quality of recreation experiences. Fortunately, these impacts can be minimized through careful planning and management.

These issues will be explored through the following course objectives:

1. Study recreational use and users in forests and parks, including past, current, and projected activities and participation
2. Introduce major providers of forest-based recreation, with a focus on U.S. agencies and organizations
3. Examine social and ecological impacts of recreation in forested environments
4. Outline management frameworks and alternative strategies and practices to manage recreational use of forests and parks
5. Review theories, concepts, and tools for understanding and managing nature-based recreation
6. Explore the forest recreation profession, including key organizations and contributors
7. Consider a diverse array of contemporary forest and park recreation management issues

Instructor

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am, other times by appointment

Class Location & Meeting Time

TNR 320

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm

Required Texts

Manning, R. (2011). *Studies in outdoor recreation – Search and research for satisfaction*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press.

Additional readings as posted on Canvas.*

Grading

		<u>Grade Scale</u>	
Quizzes (5 @ 10 pts each)	50 pts	A: 93+	C: 73-76
Exams (2 @ 100 pts each)	200 pts	A-: 90-92	C-: 70-72
Presentation	50 pts	B+: 87-89	D+: 67-69
<u>Class Activities</u>	<u>50 pts</u>	B: 83-86	D: 60-66
Total	350 pts	B-: 80-82	F: <60
		C+: 77-79	

Quizzes and Exams:

There will be five online quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will cover material presented in each section of the course and are worth up to 10 points each. Quizzes will be open on Canvas for one week and can be taken multiple times. While multiple attempts are allowed, quizzes must be completed independently. They should be used to help test your knowledge of the lecture material.

Written exams will take place in class on the dates designated on the course schedule. Two required exams, worth 100 points each, will be given during the semester. Additionally, there will be an optional comprehensive final exam during the final exam period. If the final exam is taken, the lowest of the three exam scores will be dropped when calculating the final course grade.

Quizzes and exams will be based on lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, and class presentations and may contain true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and/or essay questions. Academic honesty is required and expected. All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in a failing grade on the quiz/exam or in the course.

Recreation Issue Presentation:

Throughout the semester, we will explore a variety of contemporary outdoor recreation issues and trends through short in-class student presentations. Topics will be assigned early in the semester, and you will have an opportunity to trade topics or to propose a new topic. Your assignment will be to present the multiple dimensions of your issue in relation to materials from class sessions, course readings, and other sources. Additional instructions for the presentation will be provided during class.

Class Activities:

A variety of activities will be used to illustrate course concepts and encourage engagement with lecture material. Fifty points will be allocated based on participation in class activities. Please contact me if you'll need to miss more than one or two in-class activities during the semester. I understand that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may require flexibility for some individuals this semester. If you need to quarantine or miss class for another excused reason, reach out so I can help you keep up with the course requirements. Communication is key to navigating these uncertainties.

Academic Honesty

All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students. Refer to the Dean of Students website for policies and expectations regarding academic honesty at UW – Stevens Point.

Learning Resources

If you have questions or observations about the course, please share them! I am happy to talk during office hours or at another scheduled time. I will also ask for feedback during the semester. Don't hesitate to reach out when I can be of help. Writing and other academic assistance is available in the Tutoring Learning Center, 018 Albertson Hall. Please arrange for accommodations for learning or physical disabilities through the Disability Services and Assistive Technology Center, 609 Albertson Hall.

College of Natural Resources Principles of Professionalism

See Canvas for a copy of these principles, required of all students, staff, and faculty in the CNR.

Forestry Anti-harassment Statement

Please review this statement on Canvas and the associated expectations of everyone involved in this class.

COVID-19 Precautions

Please take good care of yourself and others this semester by following health and safety guidance provided by the University: <https://www.uwsp.edu/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Recreational Use and Users	1	Introduction & overview Key concepts			Untold Stories	
	2	Benefits of outdoor recreation History of outdoor recreation Participation trends	Management Practices	9	Overview Information/education Rationing/allocation	
	3	Youth and the outdoors Reaching diverse audiences <u>QUIZ ONE</u> (online)		10	Rules/regulations/law enforcement Zoning/site design <u>QUIZ FOUR</u> (online) Early leaders	
Recreation Providers		Federal agencies	Recreation Research	11	Carrying capacity Social norms Indicators & standards	
	4	Federal wilderness system National trails system State and local agencies		12	Substitutability Recreation specialization Thanksgiving	
	5	Private/nonprofit providers Partnerships <u>QUIZ TWO</u> (online) Funding for fish and wildlife		13	Place attachment Recreation jeopardy <u>EXAM TWO</u> (in class)	
	6	International providers Exam review <u>EXAM ONE</u> (in class)		14	Outdoor recreation profession Career activity Presentations	
	Recreation Impacts	7	Ecological impacts Newer concerns Crowding		15	Presentations Presentations <u>QUIZ FIVE</u> (online)
		8	Conflict Depreciative behavior <u>QUIZ THREE</u> (online)			The future

FINAL EXAM: Friday, December 16, 2:45-4:45pm

*See Canvas for weekly readings