

FOR 394/594: Forest Recreation Seminar

Fall 2023

Course Description and Objectives

Forestry 394/594 provides an opportunity to examine recreation planning and management in-person and in-depth. This semester, our primary field experience option will consider the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the mosaic of agencies, organizations, individuals, and volunteers that work towards its development, promotion, and protection. In particular, we'll focus on two key trail partners – the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the National Park Service. The Ice Age Trail Alliance is the nonprofit organization responsible for promoting, developing, and supporting the trail. The National Park Service is the trail's administering agency. To accommodate potential conflicts with the primary field experience dates, students will be provided with two additional flexible options for the seminar.

Collectively, we will explore the text "A thinking person's guide to America's national parks" and we will gather at semester's end to reflect on our field experiences.

The seminar, and its options, will be guided by the following learning outcomes:

1. Develop a thorough understanding of selected nature-based recreation providers
2. Support the provision and management of real-world outdoor recreation opportunities
3. Discuss multiple dimensions of park administration and management
4. Reflect on knowledge and experiences gained during the seminar

Instructor

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

Class Meeting Times

This semester, our primary field experience is planned for Saturday, September 30, with the option to join in a volunteer celebration dinner and camp out that extends to Sunday, October 1. To accommodate potential conflicts with this date, two additional flexible field experience options will be provided. In addition to participating in a field experience, you will contribute to weekly online discussions of the course text, complete and upload some individual assignments, and participate in a final class gathering. The timing of the final class gathering will be determined based on our collective schedules.

Text and Resources

Manning, R., Diamant, R., Mitchell, N., & Harmon, D., Eds. (2016). A thinking person's guide to America's national parks. George Braziller Publishers: New York.

Ice Age Trail Alliance website: <https://www.iceagetrail.org/>

National Park Service Ice Age Trail website: <https://www.nps.gov/iatr/index.htm>

Green Circle Trail website: <https://greencircletrail.org/>

Activities, Assignments, and Grading

Project Set-Up (5%)

Points will be allocated for selecting your field experience and completing associated set-up activities on Canvas in a timely fashion.

Essay Responses (30%)

Throughout the semester, we will work through the collection of essays in "A Thinking Person's Guide to the National Parks." Each week, starting in week two, a prompt will be posted for two of the 23 essays in the book. You will be responsible for responding to 10 of these prompts over the course of the semester and for reviewing all discussion posts. A brief (one or two paragraphs) – yet thoughtful – response should be posted to the appropriate discussion on Canvas for each essay reviewed.

Field Experience (30%)

There will be three options for completing the field experience portion of the seminar:

- Helping to Build the Ice Age Trail (September 30, or possibility of adjacent dates)
- Gathering Observations along the Green Circle Trail (flexible dates)
- Connecting with a Manager to Build Your Own Project (flexible dates)

Please select an option by September 14.

Written Report (25%)

You will be asked to provide a written report reflecting on the field experience and insights gained into the recreation providers associated with your experience. Details for the report will be provided on Canvas.

Class Reflection and Discussion (10%)

We will gather at semester's end to share and reflect on the field experience and course text. I will coordinate a meeting time and format during the semester based on your schedules.

Grade Scale

A:	93+	C:	73-76
A-:	90-92	C-:	70-72
B+:	87-89	D+:	67-69
B:	83-86	D:	63-66
B-:	80-82	D-:	60-62
C+:	77-79	F:	<60

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. Don't hesitate to reach out when I can be of help. Writing and other academic assistance is available in the Tutoring Learning Center. Please arrange for accommodations for learning or physical disabilities through the Disability Services and Assistive Technology Center.

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.

College of Natural Resources Principles of Professionalism

Please 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.