

FOR 480/680: Forest Recreation Management

Fall 2023

Course Description

U.S. national parks are celebrated as “America’s Best Idea.” It could be argued that establishment of the National Park Service, an agency dedicated to the management of these parks, was an even better idea. The first parks (created before the agency) were subject to the whims of souvenir-seeking tourists, squatters, and poachers. Likewise, early recreationists were left to navigate the promises and perils of these magnificent landscapes on their own.

Today, national parks – and most recreation areas – are actively managed to ensure safe, satisfying experiences for recreationists and protection of the natural resources these individuals have come to enjoy. Responsibilities of the modern recreation manager are substantial and diverse; they include: administering facilities and services; budgeting and fundraising; assessing risk; recruiting, retaining, and assessing employees; motivating staff and volunteers; maintaining positive public relations; and integrating research into decision-making – among other things.

In FOR 480/680, we’ll explore the breadth of recreation management following these course goals and learning outcomes:

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand established approaches to outdoor recreation management.
2. Have an appreciation of the park and recreation profession.
3. Be able to critically consider the impact of outdoor recreation management decisions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast outdoor recreation management models.
2. Explain key responsibilities of managers in the context of nature-based recreation.
3. Demonstrate competencies required of park and recreation professionals.
4. Identify techniques for assessing, monitoring, and managing ecological impacts in forests, parks, and protected areas.
5. Critique real-world applications of recreation management strategies and practices.
6. Author a recreation management case study.

Instructor

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 – 10:50 am; other times by appointment.

Class Location & Meeting Time

TNR 320

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am – 12:15pm

Required Text

Edginton, C., Hudson, S., Lankford, S., & Larsen, D. (2015). *Managing recreation, parks, and leisure services – An introduction*. Champaign, IL: Sagamore Publishing, LLC. (Text Rental)

Manning, R., Anderson, L., and Pettengill, P. (2017). *Managing outdoor recreation: Case studies in the national parks*. 2nd edition. Oxfordshire, UK: CABI Publishing. (Text Rental)

Additional readings as posted on Canvas.

Grading

Assignments/Exams	Learning Outcome(s) Addressed	Points
Midterm Exam	1,2	100
Final Exam	3-5	100
Management Case Study	5,6	100
Class Activities	1-6	100
	Total	400

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Exams	50%
Case Study	25%
<u>Class Activities*</u>	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

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

*In addition to guided, in-class activities, students will take the lead on reviewing and facilitating a discussion of two MOR case studies. FOR 680 students will deliver a graduate lecture.

Exams: Exams will be based on lectures, posted materials, assigned readings and class discussions and may contain true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and/or essay questions.

Management Case Study: We will consider several existing management case studies through a series of readings, presentations, and class discussions. In addition, you will prepare and share a case study on an outdoor recreation management issue of interest. Selected case studies will be presented during the last week of the semester. A final copy of your case study chapter is due the last day of class. Additional instructions, and an outline for the case study, will be provided in class.

Class Activities & Discussions: Throughout the semester, we will engage in several activities to illustrate and apply course concepts. Your participation will be key to the success of this class. In addition, we will review and discuss 25+ management case studies set in the national parks. You will be responsible for taking the lead on two of these case studies, and for participating in all case study discussions. 25% of course grades will be allocated based on participation in these activities. Life circumstances may lead you to require flexibility at certain points during the semester. If you'll need to miss more than a couple of classes due to illness or other excused reasons, please reach out so I can help support your continued success in the course. Communication is key to navigating these uncertainties.

Graduate Lecture

Students taking the course for graduate credit will deliver a lecture on a recreation management topic, which will be included in the class activities grade.

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. Please arrange for accommodations for learning or physical disabilities through the Disability Resource 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

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.

Course Schedule

See next page for a schedule of lecture topics, readings, exams, and assignments.

	Unit	Wk	Topics	MRPLS Chapters	MOR Chapters
Management Case Studies	Introduction	1	Introduction & overview MOR framework	1	1-5
	Management Models	2	General management history Schools of management thought	2	Acadia
		3	Outdoor recreation management Activity- and experience-based management		Appalachian Trail Great Smoky Mtns Arches Biscayne
		4	Benefits-based management Vision, mission, and goal statements	3	Mammoth Cave Chaco Denali Colorado River
	Manager Responsibilities	5	Ethics Leadership (TNR 356)	5, 6	Apostle Islands Muir Woods
		6	Motivation MIDTERM EXAM		Mesa Verde Mt. Whitney
	Managing Ecological Impacts	7	Impact patterns Case Study Project (TNR 356)		Petrified Forest Carlsbad Caverns
		8	Environmental durability and visitor use Inclusive Excellence Conference		Katmai Voyageurs
		9	Monitoring techniques Programming: Program evaluation	14	Yosemite Zion Shuttle Grand Canyon National Mall
	Professional Competencies	10	Human Resources: Recruiting and hiring Appraisals and promotions	10	Devils Tower Yellowstone Grand Glacier Teton
		11	Operations: Legal issues Risk decisions	13	TBD
		12	Communication: Public relations & marketing ***Thanksgiving***	12	TBD
		13	Finance: Types of budgets Budgeting time	11	TBD
		14	MOR Principles Case Study Project (TNR 356)		31
		15	Case study presentations CASE STUDY CHAPTER		

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 21, 10:15AM-12:15PM