FOR 485/685: Forest Recreation Planning and Site Design

Spring 2021

Course Description

At a popular camping area along the Appalachian Trail, campsites built on sloping land prevent the spread of ecological impacts. Nearby, on the National Mall, a permit system helps to ensure peaceful expressions of democracy at one of the world's most intensively used urban forests. Far to the north and west, elevated boardwalks and platforms promote the well-being of both visitors and the several-hundred pound Alaskan brown bears that they've come to observe. To the south and east of the U.S. continent, fragile coral reefs, known as the "rainforests of the sea," are protected by a series of markers and mooring buoys. All are reflective of intentional recreation planning and design. In FOR 485/685, our study of planning and design will be guided by the following goals and learning outcomes.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand outdoor recreation planning processes, principles, and frameworks.
2. Have an appreciation for established approaches to site design in forests and parks.
3. Be able to develop and effectively communicate an outdoor recreation plan.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify steps in the master planning process.
2. Explain how key state and federal laws relate to outdoor recreation planning.
3. Interpret recreation planning frameworks used by federal, state, and local agencies.
4. Describe the processes involved in obtaining and analyzing data useful to planners.
5. Evaluate recreation facilities and use areas based on established standards and guidelines.
6. Apply design guidelines and principles to an outdoor recreation site.
7. Evaluate alternatives to meet goals for an outdoor recreation site development.
8. Prepare an outdoor recreation site plan.
9. Apply discipline-specific standards of oral and written communication to compose an articulate, grammatically correct, and organized presentation/piece of writing with properly documented and supported ideas, evidence, and information suitable to the topic, purpose, and audience.
10. Critique their own and others' writing/oral presentations to provide effective and useful feedback to improve their communication.

Instructor

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Zoom Office Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11am; other times by appointment
https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/97883233301?pwd=bUR3TkdTQWFKUUlBVTh2WFc4R2ZxQT09
Meeting ID: 978 8323 3301
Passcode: 512580

Class Format and Meeting Times

Lectures for Spring 2021 are online, asynchronous. Lecture content will be organized by week, with new material posted on Canvas each Tuesday. A variety of content – including slides, recorded videos, lecture notes, readings, external resources, short activities, and practices quizzes – may be posted. Plan to set aside 2-3 hours each week to work through the lecture material.

Labs for Spring 2021 are set up as a virtual classroom. We will meet via Zoom each Thursday beginning at 1pm. Lab time will be split between the capstone project for the course and individual lab assignments. Our class meeting time will primarily be used to collaborate on the capstone project, while individual lab assignments may be completed asynchronously. This means that we will generally meet as a full class for the first part of lab (~1 hour), with flexibility for individual conversations, group meetings, or independent work during the second part of lab. See the course schedule for planned activities and days when the full lab is dedicated to the capstone project.

Required Text

Baas, J. & Burns, R. (2016). Outdoor recreation planning. Sagamore Publishing. Urbana, IL.

Additional readings as posted on Canvas.

Exams

There will be two written exams – a midterm and a final. Exams will be based on lecture material, assigned readings and class activities and may contain true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Planning and Design Project

We'll practice recreation planning and design through a capstone project. The project will consist of two components: a written plan and an in-class presentation. Additional instructions for the plan and details about the project will be provided during lab. Lab time will be dedicated to advancing the project.

Lab Reports

There will be ten individual lab assignments designed to promote exploration of the principles and practices of planning and design in greater depth. Lab reports are worth 10 points each and are due one week after they are assigned.

Graduate Lecture

Students taking the course for graduate credit will deliver a "lecture" on a recreation planning or site design topic. I will work directly with each student to identify potential topics and options for presenting the material online.

Grading

Assignments/Exams*	**Learning Outcome(s) Addressed**	**Points**
Midterm Exam	1-4	100
Final Exam	5-7	100
Final Project	6-10	100
Lab Reports	1-8	100
	Total	400

*The graduate lecture is worth 50 points, yielding 450 total possible points for FOR 685.

Grade Scale**

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

**Course grades may be adjusted up or down based on attendance and participation.

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 after Zoom lab, 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

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.

Course Schedule

	Wk	Lecture	Lab
Forest Recreation Planning	1	Course overview Introduction to recreation planning	Capstone project overview (Zoom) Treehaven document review (online)
	2	Planning process State planning (LWCF, SCORPs)	Setting the stage (Zoom) SCORP lab (online)
	3	Federal planning (VERP, LAC, VUM)	Knowns and unknowns (Zoom) VUM lab (online)
	4	Federal planning (NEPA)	Manager input (Zoom) NEPA lab (online)
	5	Gathering data to inform planning	Identifying issues (Zoom) Recreation data sources lab (online)
	6	Public meetings, plan management, and decision making	Documenting existing conditions (Zoom) Midterm Q & A (Zoom)
	7	**MIDTERM EXAM**	Developing alternatives (Zoom)*
& Site Design	8	Design considerations	Analyzing alternatives (Zoom)*
	9	Accessible design (ABA, ADA) Graduate "lecture"	Alternative selection (Zoom) Accessibility lab (online)
	10	Trails	Monitoring and evaluation (Zoom) Trail lab (online)
	11	Campgrounds	Plan review (Zoom) Campground lab (online) **DRAFT PLANS DUE**
	12	Transportation Parking	Plan feedback (Zoom) Bus lab (online)
	13	Playgrounds Picnic sites	Plan revision (Zoom) Playground lab (online)
	14	Visitor information Restrooms	Plan revision (Zoom) Sign lab (online)
	15	Emerging issues	Project presentations (Zoom)*
	16	**FINAL EXAM**	**FINAL PLANS DUE**

*Days where full lab is dedicated to capstone projects.