

FOR 394: Forest Recreation Seminar Fall 2019

Course Description and Objectives

Forestry 394 provides an opportunity to examine recreation planning and management both in-person and in-depth. This semester, we'll focus on trail planning and development from conception to construction. We'll head to Waushara County to help build a section of the Ice Age Trail. We'll explore online resources and the course text to learn more about the trail's administering agency (the National Park Service) and its nonprofit partner (the Ice Age Trail Alliance). We'll scope out a school forest in Portage County to inform the development of a new trail system. We'll approach the course, and its field trips, with the following objectives in mind:

1. Develop a thorough understanding of selected nature-based recreation providers
2. Acquire knowledge of trail building equipment, procedures, and safety precautions
3. Participate in a large, coordinated volunteer effort to develop trail building skills
4. Reflect on multiple dimensions of trail administration and management
5. Gather data and prepare a recommendations report to inform recreation planning, site design, and management
6. Develop connections with a regional high school through complimentary class projects

Instructor

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 am – 10:50 am; other times by chance or appointment

Class Meeting Times

We will meet in person as a class two times during the semester. First, we will meet for an all-day field outing on Saturday, September 21. Second, the class will divide into two groups for an afternoon school visit on October 18 & 25. (You will be asked to attend the September 21 field trip and either the October 18 or the October 25 class visit.) Remaining course communications and assignment submissions will take place through Canvas. Students are encouraged to set up individual meetings as needed throughout the semester to discuss course concepts, assignments, and expectations.

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>

Please review these resources to prepare for the field experience and to inform your written reflection.

Field Experience (30%)

We will be participating in the Ice Age Trail Alliance Mobile Skills Crew Trailbuilding Event in Waushara County the morning of Saturday, October 21. This is a great opportunity to connect with staff from the Ice Age Trail Alliance, network with trail enthusiasts, develop trail building skills, and experience a large-scale volunteer operation. In the afternoon, we will visit the Almond-Bancroft School Forest to gather information for a new trail system. Plan on an early morning departure and early evening return.

Class Visit (20%)

We will visit a PBS NewsHour class at Almond-Bancroft High School to share our school forest observations and gather input from students about what they would like to see in a new trail system. In addition, students will be interviewing us for a media project for their class. Plan to visit with the class during the afternoon of either October 18 or October 25.

Recommendations Report (30%)

During the field experience, you will work with a small group to gather data to inform the development of a new trail system on the Almond-Bancroft school forest. As a group, you will prepare a recommendations report based on those data, as well as insights gathered during our meeting with high school students. In addition to the report, you will provide a copy of your field data. Specific report requirements will be provided during the field trip.

Written Reflection (20%)

You will be asked to provide a 1-2-page written reflection on the Ice Age Trail. The reflection should address the following questions. What did you learn about the trail during the field experience and through your review of the course text and resources that you didn't know before? What do you view as strengths in how the trail is managed and administered? What are the challenges? What is the role of its administering agency, the National Park Service, relative to the Ice Age Trail Alliance?

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

Academic Honesty

Please refer to the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for policies and expectations regarding academic honesty.

Learning Resources

Students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor regarding any academic concerns or questions. Writing assistance is available in the Mary K. Croft Tutoring-Learning Center.

Accommodation for learning or physical disabilities can be arranged through the Disability Services Office.

Field Trip Details

Field Experience

Date: Saturday, September 21

Location: Hancock, WI & Almond, WI

What to Bring: notebook, writing utensils, list of questions, hiking shoes/boots, clothing appropriate for on- and off-trail outdoor work, outdoor provisions (rain jacket, sunblock, hat, sunglasses, etc.), water bottle, hard hat

Tentative Schedule:

7:15 am – Depart Stevens Point

8:00 am – Trail Crew Assignments

noonish – Lunch – Provided by IATA

1:00 pm – Depart IAT Event

1:30 pm – Data collection on school forest property

5:00 pm – Return to Stevens Point (back by 6pm)

Class Visit

Date: Friday, October 18 or October 25

Location: Almond-Bancroft High School

What to Bring: notes from field experience, questions for high school class, Pointer Pride

Tentative Schedule:

12:30 pm – Depart Stevens Point

1:15 pm – Join PBS NewsHour Class

2:00 pm – Return to Stevens Point (back by 3pm)