**PLS 230 Fall 2014**

# Park Management and Operations

Meeting Time: Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00 – 11:50am

Classroom: ML Commons

Instructor: Rick Gage

Email: [gager@marshall.edu](mailto:gager@marshall.edu)

Office: 105 Morrow Lib

Office Hours: M: 1:00-3:00 & 4:30-5:30

T: 11:00-12:00 & 2:00-4:00

**Course Description and Objectives**

From Course Catalog: “This course focuses on the origin and conceptual development of parks and protected lands and the study of management and operation practices of these areas, specifically considering the physical resources.”

The primary objective of this course is to provide NRRM students with an understanding of the tools and approaches used in the management of park and recreation agencies and organizations. Special emphasis will be given to conceptual development of parks, basic management and operations practices, and physical resources and facilities management.

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| **Course Student Learning Outcomes** | **How students will practice each outcome in this Course** | **How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this Course** |
| Students will know key park and recreation management principles and historical context | Quizzes , chapter discussions | Exams |
| Students will evaluate and be able to apply contemporary theories related to park and recreation management | Quizzes, chapter discussions | Exams, agency analysis |
| Students will express how organizations establish direction, set goals, and develop policies | Quizzes, chapter discussions, guest lecture reflection | Exams |
| Students will be able to describe common governance structures and discuss strengths and weaknesses of each | Quizzes, chapter discussions | Exams, agency analysis |
| Students will characterize the relationship between parks and natural resources | Quizzes, chapter discussions | Exams |
| Students will identify personnel management strategies, employee motivation techniques, and their role in promoting organizational excellence | Quizzes, chapter discussions, agency analysis | Exams |
| Students will critically analyze a leisure services provider and assess strengths and weaknesses | Chapter discussions, case studies | Agency analysis |
| Students will propose practical solutions to common management issues/problems while working with limited resources and within a realistic framework | Case studies, special topics discussions | Agency analysis |
| Students will identify contemporary problems and issues relating to park and recreation management | Guest lecture reflection, special topics discussions | Special topics presentation, Exams |

**Required Readings**

Edington, C.R., Hudson, S.D., Lankford, S.V., & Larson, D. (2008). Managing Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services: An Introduction (3rd Edition). Champaign, IL: Sagamore.

Additionally, handouts, text chapters & other readings will be assigned throughout the semester as needed. **Students are expected to read these articles** and be prepared to discuss them during the assigned class period. This information will appear on quizzes.

**Course Requirements**

Agency Analysis: (25% of semester grade). An advanced agency description and fiscal analysis will provide an opportunity for students to examine concepts presented in the course as they apply to a real-life situation. The main purpose will be to observe an agency and apply the concepts learned in class. Students will be expected to conduct an interview with a recreation administrator, identify strengths and weaknesses of their chosen agency, and propose potential solutions to identified problems. This is an individual assignment and will be described in greater detail before the third week of classes. Projects will be presented in class on Dec. 1 and Dec. 3. Final papers will be due on the last day of classes.

Special Topics Discussions: (15% of semester grade). These will consist of approximately 5 in-class assignments, which will offer an opportunity to discuss and apply course content. Each student/group will have the opportunity to prepare and lead the discussion for one or more of these special topics. Even if you are not leading the discussion, you **must be present** in order to participate and complete the assignments. Keeping up with readings is also advised in order to successfully complete these in-class assignments.

Quizzes: (20% of semester grade). There will be four short quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will cover material provided through class lectures, discussions, readings, and guest presentations. All quizzes are non-cumulative. Quiz dates may not be announced ahead of time.

Exams: (30% of semester grade). There will be two exams during the semester. These will be cumulative, with an emphasis on material presented after the previous exam. The exams will cover class lectures, discussions, readings, and guest presentations. Exams will be announced in class at least one week before the exam date. Exams are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 20 and Dec. 5.

Class Attendance and Participation: (10% of semester grade). **Attendance at each class is mandatory**. However, each student will be allowed one “un-excused class” per semester (except for Quiz/Exam dates or Special Topics dates). Two or more un-excused absences will result in a *significant* reduction in your class attendance and participation grade. Any absences due to illness must be documented according the Marshall University Policy. In addition to attendance, in-class participation will be evaluated at the end of the semester and can contribute *significantly* to this portion of the grade. This portion of your grade is not a given, and you will be expected to earn your grade beyond just “showing up.” This means speaking in class, asking appropriate questions, and taking adequate notes during lectures.

**Student Evaluation**

Agency Analysis 25%

Special Topics Discussion 15%

Quizzes (4) 20%

Exams (2) 30%

Attendance & Participation 10%

**Grading Scale**

A = 90 or above B = 80 to 89 C = 70 to 79 D = 60 to 69 F = 59 or below

### Grading Policy

All written course assignments (e.g., Course Project) should be **typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font**, **double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and use APA format**. Grading of this assignment will be based both on content as well as the style and adequacy of the presentation itself. This project should be neat, succinct, clear, and use the appropriate terms. Spelling/grammar will be evaluated. In-class assignments are to be neatly written, signed by all group members (when appropriate), and submitted at the end of the class period. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**Classroom Expectations**

Please be considerate of the other students in the class. It is up to you whether or not you choose to attend class and if you choose to pay attention. It is unfair, however, for you to negatively impact the ability of others students to learn. Please take care that your actions are considerate and do not detract from the learning environment. **Once class has begun, please refrain from sending text messages, reading newspapers, or otherwise distracting from the class discussion**.

It is also expected that the opinions and backgrounds of all class members will be welcomed and respected. All students are encouraged to participate in class discussion, but please address others with respect.

**Accessing Course Information**

Power-point slides, assignments, and other necessary class information will be posted on Blackboard. The website for Blackboard is marshall-bb.blackboard.com. It is imperative that you have access to Blackboard and that you check your MU email regularly.

**Academic Integrity**

Please be aware that academic integrity is taken very seriously at this university and in this class. Any type of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes citing anyone else’s words or ideas in your own writing without giving credit. Additionally, self-plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. This includes turning in assignments that have previously been used for another class or purpose. All assignments must be completed specifically for this course. More information regarding plagiarism is provided in the Marshall University handbook. However, if you have a question about any academic integrity issues, please contact me.

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802>

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment