**PLS 301: Introduction to Outdoor Recreation (3 Credits)   
Course Syllabus - Spring 2015**

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| **Instructor:** | David A. Graefe, Ph.D. | **Class Meets:** | Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 12:15 PM |
| **Office:** | 201 Prichard Hall | **Classroom:** | Science Building, Room 116 |
| **Phone Number:** | (304) 696-2608 | **Office Hours:** | Monday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Wednesday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  Or by appointment |
| **E-Mail:** | graefe@marshall.edu |

**Course Description (from catalog):**

Organization, administration and delivery of outdoor recreation activities and resources. Emphasis on federal, state, and local government programs and areas.

**More Description:**

This course will provide students with an orientation to the field of outdoor recreation by focusing on its foundations and history, characteristics, programs, current trends, and management. It will also focus on natural resource areas that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences.

**Course Format:**

Class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday each week from 11:00 to 12:15 PM, unless otherwise specified by the instructor or course schedule. Materials will be presented and discussed using lectures, in-class discussions, and class projects and presentations. Students will be expected to attend class and participate in class discussions, complete written homework assignments, take in-class exams, and prepare and present a final paper and presentation on a topic of their choice related to outdoor recreation management and behavior (topic must be approved by instructor).

**Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials:**

The following textbooks are required for the course:

* Jensen, C. R. & Guthrie, S. P. (2006). *Outdoor Recreation in America* (6th ed.).

Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

* Other readings as assigned and provided by the instructor.

Assigned readings are an essential component of this course and provide students with a baseline of knowledge that will be expanded upon through more detailed and complex in-class lectures and discussions. Students will be required to complete assigned readings prior to the class period in which the material will be discussed.

Supplemental course materials (e.g., handouts, reading assignments, etc.) will be posted to the Blackboard website (<http://www.marshall.edu/muonline/>).

**Desired Objectives/Outcomes:**

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| **Student Learning Outcomes** | **How Practiced in this Course** | **How Assessed in this Course** |
| Students will understand the foundations of outdoor recreation in America and abroad | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Quizzes, exams, homework |
| Students will explain the historical development of outdoor recreation, especially in relation to federal and state land management agencies in the U.S. | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Quizzes, exams, homework |
| Students will evaluate recreational settings and determine their placement within the recreation opportunity spectrum | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Exams, homework, final paper |
| Students will understand the relationship between outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Exams, homework, final paper |
| Students will articulate the various benefits of outdoor recreation to humans and the environment | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Exams, homework, final paper |
| Students will demonstrate knowledge about planning principles related to outdoor recreation | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Exams, homework, final paper |
| Students will demonstrate an understanding of current trends related to outdoor recreation in the U.S. | In-class examples, discussions, Jensen & Guthrie, 2006 | Exams, homework, final paper |

**University Policies:**

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

**Attendance Policy and Make-up Work:**

In-class participation is an essential component of this course and students will be expected to attend each class unless they have a valid university-approved excuse (see university excused absence policy). I will be happy to meet with students who miss class with a valid excuse to discuss course material and how missed work can be made up. However, I will not re-lecture to students who miss class during office hours, and it will be the students’ responsibility to catch up on missed material (e.g., readings, in-class exercises, etc.).

**Assignment Submission and Late Policy**

All assignments must be turned in **at the beginning of class** on the specified due date. Except under special circumstances with written justification, assignments turned in after the due date will be penalized with a 10% reduction in points for each day late, including Saturdays and Sundays (i.e., one day late = 90% highest possible score, two days late = 80% highest possible score, etc.). Assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the original due date.

**Evaluation Method / Grading Policy:**

Students will be evaluated in this course based on their performance in the following categories…

* Quizzes – Students are required to attend and actively participate in each class throughout the semester. Students are also expected to complete reading assignments prior to the class period in which the materials will be discussed. In order to assess compliance with these expectations, I will be administering several unannounced, in-class pop-quizzes related to reading assignments at random throughout the semester. Students who miss a class period without having a university approved excused absence will receive a score of zero for any quiz given during that class period. However, I will drop the lowest quiz score for each student before determining his/her overall course grade (i.e., the results of your worst quiz will not affect your overall grade). These quizzes will make up 10% of your overall course grade. This policy will be beneficial to students who complete readings and attend class on a regular basis.
* Field Trip Participation – Students will be required to participate in a field trip to Beech Fork State Park in early March to learn about the WV State Park System and to learn about specific visitor management practices at Beech Fork. The date and time of the trip will be announced several weeks in advance, and I will cancel a regularly scheduled class meeting to make up for the time spent at the park. This field trip is a course requirement and all students are expected to participate. However, if you absolutely cannot make it due to a scheduling conflict, I will provide you with an alternative written assignment focusing on the WV State Park System.
* Written Assignments – Students will be required to complete two written homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. The content and format will vary and will be specified for each assignment. Grading of written assignments will be based both on what is presented (content) as well as the style and adequacy of the presentation itself (process). Written assignments should be neat, succinct, and clear. All homework assignments must be typed (12 –point font, double-spaced), printed, and handed in at the **beginning** of class on the date the assignment is due (see Late Policy for more detail).
* Examinations – There will be two written mid-term examinations that will be administered during specified class periods this semester (see course schedule). Any student who misses an exam due to an unexcused absence will receive a 0% for that exam (see make-up exam policy). Each midterm exam will be worth 20% of your overall course grade.
* Term Paper and Presentation – Students will be required to prepare a term paper on a topic of interest to them relating to outdoor recreation management and behavior (topic must be approved by instructor). Each student will prepare a written paper along with a PowerPoint presentation to be delivered in front of the class. The term paper and presentation will be completed in lieu of a final exam.

The evaluation categories described on the previous page will contribute to your overall course grade as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Quizzes | 10% |
|  | Field Trip Participation | 05% |
|  | Written Homework Assignments (2 at 12.5% each) | 25% |
|  | Term Paper and Presentation | 20% |
|  | Examinations (2 midterms at 20% each) | 40% |
|  | **Total** | 100% |

This class will employ a weighted grading system. To determine your grade in this course, fill in your percentage score for each evaluation category below, multiply each score by its weight, and then add the values in the final grade column to find your overall grade out of 100. In addition to handing graded assignments back to you in class, I will post grades for individual assignments and exams on blackboard. However, please remember that you **must** use the weighted grading system shown below to determine an accurate portrayal of your overall course grade. I am happy to meet with you to discuss your course progress/grade during office hours throughout the semester.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Category** | **Your Score**  **(out of 100)** |  | **Weight** |  | **Contribution to**  **Final Grade** |
| Quizzes (average) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .10 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Field Trip Participation | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .05 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Homework #1 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .125 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Homework #2 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .125 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Exam #1 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .20 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Exam #2 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .20 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Term Paper | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .15 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Term Paper Presentation | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | X | .05 | = | \_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Final Grade (out of 100)** | | | | = | **\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

Final letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

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|  | 90-100 | A |
|  | 80-89 | B |
|  | 70-79 | C |
|  | 60-69 | D |
|  | Below 60 | F |

The instructor reserves the right to change these values depending on overall class performance and/or extenuating circumstances.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this or any other course at Marshall University. As a member of this class, it is your responsibility to read and abide by rules set forth in the official Marshall University Academic Dishonesty Policy. Acts of academic dishonesty include cheating, fabrication/falsification, plagiarism, bribes/favors/threats, and complicity (i.e., helping others to commit dishonest acts). Anyone found to be cheating, plagiarizing the work of others, or violating this policy in any other way will be subject to serious penalties including failure of the course. In extremely flagrant cases, additional sanctions may be pursued through the Office of Judicial Affairs. Please refer to the Marshall University Undergraduate Catalog for a full definition of academic dishonesty.

**Make-up Exams:**

Make‑up exams will not be given except under unusual circumstances with satisfactory written justification. Any student who misses an exam due to an unexcused absence will receive a grade of zero for that exam with no opportunity for make-up or substitution. Students who miss an exam because of a genuine emergency or university excused absence will be granted a make-up exam (provided that the reason for the absence is given prior to missing the exam – call and leave a message if you have to). Make up exams must be taken within one week of the original scheduled date. The decision of whether to give a make-up exam rests with the instructor.

**Communication:**   
I will post course content on Blackboard (e.g., syllabus, assignments, readings, etc.), so be sure to check for new materials regularly. Your MU e-mail address will be used to make any general announcements, last minute schedule changes, etc. I recommend that you monitor your MU email and Blackboard accounts at least once a day. Also, I will only respond to emails that you send me from your official MU email address – it is the only way for me to be sure that I am responding to you (and not someone else pretending to be you).

**Classroom Learning Environment:**   
To maintain the best possible environment for learning, the following standards for acceptable behavior will be followed by all students in this class:

* Turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering class. Do not text during class.
* Be on time for class and don’t leave early.
* Don’t have conversations during class that distract others.
* Don’t disparage other students – treat all class members respectfully.
* Don’t use profanity in class.
* Do not use tobacco during class.

Students who violate these standards and policies will be asked to leave class.

**Policy for Students with Disabilities:**

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities.  University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability.  Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student’s instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading.  The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided.  For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.

**Course Schedule:**  
The following outline delineates the tentative class schedule with topics to be addressed during the course. Please note this is a tentative schedule and it may change as the class progresses:

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| **Date** | **Day** | **Topic** | **Assignment** |
| 1/13 | T | Course intro, syllabus overview, definitions |  |
| 1/15 | R | Definitions Cont. , History | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 1 |
| 1/20 | T | History of Anglo-European Outdoor Recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 2 |
| 1/22 | R | Benefits of Outdoor Recreation, **Introduce Homework #1** | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 3 |
| 1/27 | T | Participation and trends in outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 4 |
| 1/29 | R | Lifestyle trends and their influences on outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 5 |
| 2/03 | T | Natural resource base for outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 6, |
| 2/05 | R | Wilderness and wildlands | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 7 **Homework #1 due** |
| 2/10 | T | Resource management concepts | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 8 |
| 2/12 | R | Wrap-up Ch. 1-8, review for exam #1 |  |
| 2/17 | T | **Exam #1** |  |
| 2/19 | R | Federal and State agencies | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 9 and Ch. 10 |
| 2/24 | T | Federal and state agencies cont., **Introduce homework #2** | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 11 |
| 2/26 | R | Federal and state agencies cont. | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 12 |
| 3/03 | T | Federal and state agencies cont. | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 13 |
| 3/05 | R | Local government participation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 14, |
| 3/10 | T | Economic factors influencing outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 15 |
| 3/12 | R | Commercial, private, and nonprofit recreation, **Introduce Term Paper, Homework #2 presentations** | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 16 **Homework #2 due** |
| 3/17 | T | **No Class – Spring Break!** |  |
| 3/19 | R | **No Class – Spring Break!** |  |
| 3/24 | T | Resource management challenges | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 17 |
| 3/26 | R | Planning considerations for outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 18,  **Term paper topics due** |
| 3/31 | T | Wrap-up Ch. 9-18, review for exam #2 |  |
| 4/02 | R | **Exam #2** |  |
| 4/07 | T | Education for outdoor recreation | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 19 |
| 4/09 | R | Environmental quality considerations | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 20 |
| 4/14 | T | **No Class – Make up for field trip / research time** |  |
| 4/16 | R | **No Class – Make up for field trip / research time** |  |
| 4/21 | T | A look into the Future | Jensen & Guthrie, Ch. 21 |
| 4/23 | R | Student Presentations |  |
| 4/28 | T | Student Presentations |  |
| 4/30 | R | Student Presentations | **Term Papers Due** |

Every student is responsible for all materials presented in class, including lectures, notes, and handouts. In case you are not present for a class, you should contact me to receive information about the material presented in that class. Class attendance is very important.