**PLS 410 Spring 2015**

# Maintenance of Natural Resources and Recreation Facilities

Meeting Time: Tues/Thurs 12:30 – 1:45pm

Classroom: Science 166

Instructor: Rick Gage

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Office: 105 Morrow Lib

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1:00-3:00pm

Tues 2:00-4:00pm

**Course Description and Objectives**

From Course Catalog: “A study of the knowledge and skills necessary to supervise and administer the general development and maintenance of park and recreation areas and facilities.”

The primary objective of this course is to provide advanced standing NRRM students with an understanding of design, maintenance, and operational considerations of park and recreation facilities. Special emphasis will be placed upon ***evaluation*** of recreation facility planning and design and the trade-offs made in those designs.

Students will be expected to take detailed class and site visit notes, read assigned materials, and be willing to discuss and trouble-shoot site planning/design issues. This course will consist of lectures, guest discussions, and field trip visits to a number of recreation facilities. All class materials (e.g., schedule, readings, and assignments) will be posted on Blackboard.

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| **Course Student Learning Outcomes**  **Students should be able to:** | **How students will practice each outcome in this Course** | **How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this Course** |
| Demonstrate understanding of facility maintenance practices | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluation |
| Identify the components of a maintenance management plan | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Facility evaluation, exams |
| Describe general site planning/development considerations for a variety of recreation and park facilities | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluations, exams |
| Explain the special materials and apparatus required for specific recreation facilities maintenance and management | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluations, exams |
| Identify the types of support facilities necessary to compliment recreation facilities | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluations, exams |
| Appraise the strengths and weaknesses of various recreation facility designs | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluations |
| Understand vandalistic behaviors and identify appropriate strategies for managing facility vandalism | In-class activities, teacher modeling, class discussions | Site reports, facility evaluations, exams |

**Required Readings**

No text book will be required for this class.

However, 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. Additionally, students are encouraged to bring articles, websites, news clippings, or other relevant media to class to further in-depth discussions.

**Course Requirements**

**Site Evaluations: (40% of semester grade)**. Each student is required to submit three (3) out of a potential of five (5) facility site evaluations, plus an additional site evaluation for our full-day trip in the second half of the semester. Regardless of which facilities the student chooses to evaluate, each completed evaluation will be due in class one week after the site visit (two weeks for the full-day trip). These site evaluations will use information gathered in class and during the on-site facility visit. A detailed overview of these site evaluations will be provided in class before the first site visit. Each student may submit up to five (5) site evaluations. The three (3) highest grades will be recorded.

**Oral Presentation – Evaluation of a Recreation Facility: (15% of semester grade)**. Students will be paired in groups of two and will be required to evaluate a facility of their choice independently. Students must not select a facility visited during the course of the semester but may evaluate a facility type that is not covered in class (e.g., tennis courts, ballfields, marinas, etc.). A final oral presentation will be given during the week preceding the last week of class. More details on the class project will be provided by the 4th or 5th week of the course.

**Exams: (30% of semester grade)**. There will be three exams. Exams will cover material provided through not only class lectures, but also assigned readings, and site visits.

**Class Attendance and Participation: (15% of semester grade)**. **Attendance at each class is mandatory**. However, each student will be allowed one “un-excused class” per semester (except for debate dates or other announced special event 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, participating in learning activities, and taking adequate notes during lectures.

**Student Evaluation**

Site Evaluations 40%

Oral Presentation 15%

Exams 30%

Attendance & Participation 15%

**Grading Scale**

A = 90 or above B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 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 the quality of the content as well as the style and adequacy of the presentation itself. Written work 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, and submitted at the end of the class period. **Late submissions will result in significant grade reduction.**

**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