**PLS 411 Spring 2014**

# Natural Area & Park Planning and Design

Meeting Time: T/Th 12:30 – 1:45pm

Classroom: ML 122

Instructor: Rick Gage

Office: 105 Morrow Lib

Office Hours: Mon. 1-5pm, Tues. 2-4pm

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**Course Description and Objectives**

From Course Catalog: “Basic considerations in the planning and design of recreation and sport areas, facilities, and structures including associated amenities.”

The primary objective of this course is to provide NRRM students with an understanding of the tools and approaches used in park planning and design. This course introduces aspects of the planning and design process including principles of park design, inclusive recreation, historical context, interrelationships between humans and their environments, and the balance between function and aesthetics. Students will be required to become familiar with and use computer software in this course.

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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 be able to recognize the expansive variety of recreation, park, physical education, and sports facilities. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will be able to discuss the historical context of public recreation and leisure services. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will develop computer skills and apply those to a park design problem. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will describe and provide examples of the eight principles of park design. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will generate a planning document, maps, and other relevant design tools. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will know how to analyze, evaluate, and critique recreation needs for a target population. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan |
| Students will think critically about issues related to natural area and park planning and share opinions and experiences with others to strengthen understanding. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan, Presentations and Discussions |
| Students will develop skills in teambuilding, communication, and professionalism. | Readings, lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, site visits, in-class assignments | Exams, Homework Assignments, Park Master Plan, Presentations and Discussions |

**Required Readings**

Dahl, B. & Molnar, D.J. (2003). Anatomy of a Park (Third Edition). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

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.

Finally, students will be required to participate in a series of training videos on Lynda.marshall.com to become familiar with Trimble Sketchup software.

**Course Requirements**

**Homework and In-Class Assignments: (25% of semester grade)**. Students will work in pairs to thoroughly research the history of a selected forest recreation activity. Each student team will produce a background review paper (15%) and give a short presentation to the class (5%). This paper will be included in the final Forest Recreation Plan as Section 1. More details will be provided by the third week of classes.

**Park Master Plan: (35% of semester grade)**. Working in pairs, students will develop a comprehensive forest recreation plan including thorough background research, a development report, and several alternative proposals for facility enhancement. This document will be generated incrementally throughout the semester and will be a compiled and enhanced version of major in-class and homework assignments. Student pairs will submit the final planning document (15%) and present their proposals to an audience of their peers (10%).

**Exams: (30% of semester grade)**. There will be three 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. Each exam will be worth 10% of the semester grade. Exams will be announced in class at least one week before the exam date. Exams are tentatively scheduled for March 7 and April 25.

**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 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, and taking adequate notes during lectures.

**Student Evaluation**

Homework and In-Class 25%

Park Master Plan 35%

Exams (3) 30%

Attendance & Participation 10%

**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 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, 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