

PTRM 484: Field Techniques

Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:50 PM in Health Sciences 411

Three (3) Credits

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jenn Thomsen, Ph.D.

Clapp Building (CHCB) 465

406.243.6581 (office) 862.216.3035 (cell)

Jennifer.thomsen@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Taylor Cole

Clapp Building (CHCB) 460

Taylor1.cole@umontana.edu

Course Description

The Parks, Tourism and Recreation Management field offers a broad and diverse set of professional opportunities. Perhaps you want to provide interpretive ranger programs at a National Park, conduct research on wildland impacts from backcountry users, own and operate a wildlife tourism business, coordinate a community recreation program, or work for a non-profit to promote your preferred recreation, to name just a few. This course is designed to familiarize students with the broad range of professional opportunities that exist in the PTRM field. We will visit with different practitioners to learn about their jobs, the typical problems they manage, and the basic techniques for data collection and use they most commonly employ. Through on-site field trips and activities, students will gain insight into the experience and skill set necessary to gain entry into and succeed in this exciting and enjoyable career path. Students will be expected to engage professionally with practitioners and to interact with course ideas and materials via both written work and oral presentations.

Learning Goals

By the end of the course, students should

- Develop a holistic understanding of the breadth of professional opportunities in the Parks, Tourism and Recreation Management field.
- Develop skills that can be applied in a variety of professional settings.
- Understand management challenges and how to effectively address them.
- Apply the skills independently and cooperatively in a project with a partnering institution.

Course Structure

This course will primarily take place in the field. Most field trips will occupy Friday afternoons except where otherwise noted on the syllabus. As weekly meet location will vary, students will be responsible to monitor their University email account and the Moodle class site for announcements and readings pertaining to the week's field trip. On campus classroom time will primarily be used for coordinating field trips and for student presentations.

Course Readings

There is no required text to purchase. All readings will be available electronically on the course Moodle site. Readings will be posted a week prior to class and be related to the course field trip.

Course Policies

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices during class, including laptops and tablets, is only permitted **so long as the use is directly related to the class session.** Out of respect for your fellow students, instructors and guest speakers, please **silence portable electronic devices** before coming into class. Please instruct relatives or friends to call campus security in case of an emergency. Security will look up the class in the system and then send someone to the class. The use of cell phones to make phone calls is not allowed unless approved by the instructor.

Plagiarism

Successful students always make sure that their work is original. This is important because the instructor must be able to gauge what the student has learned. Therefore, copying the work of another person, whether an essay or answers during a test, is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else's work and does not give that person credit, it is plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities Statement

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.

Student Conduct Code Statement

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Driving personal vehicles to/from trip sites is not permitted unless noted in the syllabus or discussed with instructor prior to trip. Only valid reasons for driving personal vehicles will be accepted because at many sites, there is limited parking.

Note: Alcoholic beverages and non-prescription drugs (or prescription drugs NOT prescribed to you) are strictly prohibited on and during field trips. Tobacco use is only permitted in times and manners that do not affect other students or the course activity. Tobacco use is never permitted in UM vehicles.

Evaluation

Assignments and Percentage of Final Grade

Participation/In-class activities 20%

Reading Response/Class Prep 10%
Glacier Reflection Paper 10%
Conference Reflection Paper 10%
Conference Scholarship Application & Resume 10%
Group Project Report 25%
Final Presentation 15%

Attendance and Participation

As this is primarily an experiential education course, attendance is critical to student learning. Attendance to all classes and field trips is required, no exceptions. Absences must be approved by your instructor *prior* to the day of the field trip. Last minute phone calls or emails do not count as notifying the instructor of your absence. Missed days require notification 48 hours prior. In the case of a verifiable emergency (medical, family etc.), I will make every effort to work with the student - but I need to be informed as soon as possible. If the student has university excused absences for athletics or other purposes I need to know in advance to work out make up assignments. You will have to work with your instructor on appropriate make-up for the absence. Students are expected to arrive on time and to be engaged in the course activities. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will be required to make up the in-class assignments and material that will require up to three hours during their own time outside of the class period. More than one unexcused absence will result in a drop of a letter grade for the course.

Students are expected to come prepared to class with any assigned readings completed and the appropriate dress and gear for the activities. We will be meeting with many guest speakers over the course of the semester. Students are expected to listen respectfully, *to ask thoughtful and engaged questions* and to represent the University positively. You do not have to agree with the speaker, but you are expected to show respect for their position and experience. In short, be engaged, mature and mindful of others and the environment.

Assignments

Reading Response

In order to help students be prepared for guest speakers and in their professional discernment, a variety of readings are assigned throughout the course. Based on the readings, students will be asked to respond to a discussion question and/or identify what they learned when doing the readings and what they want to learn or questions they have for the day's guest speakers about their profession. These should be specific questions or topics, not general questions like "do you enjoy your job?"

Reflection Papers

Students will complete two reflections papers, one for Glacier National Park and one for the MTRPA conference. The papers will critically reflect on our experiences at each event. Total length will be 4 – 6 pages. A handout detailing the assignment will be provided prior to each event. Glacier Reflection Paper due Friday, September 30. MTRPA Conference paper due Friday, October 7.

Scholarship Application and Resume

Students will complete and submit an application for the MTRPA student scholarship competition along with an updated resume. Application will be evaluated for course credit based on its thoroughness and competitiveness. The application will be made available via Moodle. Only applications that meet professional standards will be submitted for the scholarship. Funding from the scholarship award will be directly used by the student. Due date TBA.

Group Project Report

Throughout the semester, students will be working in groups on a project for Missoula County Parks and Recreation. Details on the project expectations and report guidelines will be provided. The final project is due during Exam Week (exact date TBA). Note: Peer evaluations of group members' contributions to the project will influence individual student grades for the group project.

Final Presentation

The final presentation will be with your project team members and will be presenting your group's work to the Missoula County Parks and Recreation and the rest of the class. Grading will be reflective of the content and professionalism of the presentation and the group members. Detailed rubrics and information on the presentation will be provided. Note: All group members are expected to contribute to the presentation design and the oral presentation. Individual grades will be reflective of participation.

Grade Scale

The grading scale is consistent with that used on the University of Montana campus. The traditional letter grade scale is below. Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

Grade	Percentage
A	> 93
A-	90 - 93
B+	88 - 89
B	83 – 87
B-	80 - 82
C+	78 - 79
C	73 - 77
C-	70 – 72
D+	68 - 69
D	63 - 67
D-	60 - 62
F	<60

Late Penalty

It is important that you turn in all assignments on time. Late work will occur a 10% reduction per day and will not be accepted after three days unless arranged ahead of time with the instructor. If students need an extension and want to avoid any late penalty, they must make such arrangements at least one week in advance of the due date with the instructor. Reasonable accommodation will be made for unforeseen emergencies.

Student Responsibility for Class Info and Updates

Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to schedule for trips, assignments, and other course activities. Changes to the schedule will be announced during class time, posted on Moodle and emailed to enrollees on their University email. Students are responsible for noting all changes and adhering to them. Please check your University email regularly for general announcements and changes.

Contacting me outside the classroom: The best way to contact me outside of class is via email. I do check it regularly but it may take me 24 hours to get back to you. *If it is urgent and pertains to attendance on a field trip, call me on my cell phone. Remember, any absences must be approved a minimum of 24 hours in advance.*

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Autumn 2016:

Time	Description	Date
To 15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund	September 19 = last day
16 th to 45 th instructional day	Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W' on transcript, no refund.	September 20 through November 2
Beginning 46 th instructional day	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, and similar reasons are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop the class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so by the end of the 45 th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean and a \$10 fee applies.	November 1 – December 12

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

September 2: Introduction to class and project with Missoula County Parks and Recreation

September 9: Field trip to Lolo Riverside Park (Intro to Site and Issues)

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

IRB Training Certificate Due

Technique: Recreational Carrying Capacity and Management Plan Development

September 16: NO CLASS (makeup for Glacier Trip)

September 22-25: Field trip to Glacier National Park

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

Technique: Assessing Recreation Impacts (Wildlife); Visitor Management and Monitoring; Strategic Communication

September 30: Field trip to Lolo Riverside Park (Data Collection/Field Assessment)

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

Glacier Paper Due

Technique: Social Science Data Collection

October 7: Field trip to Rattlesnake Recreation Area

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

Scholarship Application and Resume Due

Technique: Assessing Recreation Impacts (Vegetation, Water)

October 14: NO CLASS (makeup for MTRPA Conference)

October 17-20: MTRPA Conference in Idaho Falls

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

MTRPA Paper Due

Technique: Networking, Professional Development Skills

October 28: Field trip to Lolo Riverside Park (Data Collection)

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

Technique: Social Science Data Collection

November 4: Field trip to Blue Mountain

Meet at Blue Mountain

Technique: Trail Design and Planning

November 11: NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)

November 18: Field trip to Lolo Riverside Park (Data Collection and Project Work)

Meet at Mt Sentinel side of Forestry Building

Technique: Social Science Data Collection and Analysis

November 25: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

December 2: Project Work Day

Meet in Health Sciences 411

Technique: Project Synthesis, Outputs, and Presentation Development

Syllabus: Field Techniques Term: Fall 2016

December 9: Final Presentations and Course Evaluations

Finals Week: Final Projects Due