PTRM 484: Field Techniques  
Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:50 PM in Health Sciences 411  
3 Credits

Instructor Information  
Instructor: Jenn Thomsen, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Tom Lang, thomas.lang@umconnect.umt.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 professional connections and preparation for careers and job applications.  
• Develop data collection and analysis skills to a real-world problem.  
• 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%
Cover Letter & 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, 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 Crown Roundtable conference. The papers will critically reflect on our experiences at each event. Total length will be 3-4 pages. A handout detailing the assignment will be provided prior to each event. Glacier Reflection Paper due Friday, September 22. Round Roundtable Conference paper due Friday, October 6.

Cover Letter 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 September 22.

Group Project Report
Throughout the semester, students will be working in groups on a project that is based on a real issue or need facing professionals in the parks, recreation, and tourism field. 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 professional partners 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt; 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78 - 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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**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 2017:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To 15\textsuperscript{th} instructional day</td>
<td>Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund</td>
<td>September 21 = last day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} to 45\textsuperscript{th} instructional day</td>
<td>Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a $10 fee from registrar’s office, student will receive a ‘W’ on transcript, no refund.</td>
<td>September 22 through November 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning 46\textsuperscript{th} instructional day</td>
<td>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\textsuperscript{th} instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean and a $10 fee applies.</td>
<td>November 3 – December 12</td>
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Course Schedule (Subject to change)

September 1: Introduction to class and project; Info on Glacier trip and IRB Training

September 8: Whitewater Rafting Trip at Alberton Gorge; IRB Training Certificate Due
Technique: Recreational Carrying Capacity and Management Plan Development

September 14-16: Field trip to Glacier National Park (Park professionals)
Technique: Assessing Recreation Impacts; Visitor Management and Monitoring; Strategic Communication

September 22: Intro to Project; Begin data collection; Scholarship Application & Resume Due
Technique: Social Science Data Collection

September 25-27: Crown of the Continent Roundtable
Technique: Networking, Professional Development Skills

September 29: Project Work Day; Glacier Paper Due
Technique: Social Science Data Collection

October 6: MTRPA Conference in Missoula; Crown Roundtable Paper Due
Technique: Networking, Professional Development Skills

October 13: NO CLASS (make-up for Glacier Field Trip)

October 20: No class meeting (Project Work Day); MTRPA Paper Due by Email

October 21 OR 22: Data Collection; Technique: Social Science Data Collection

October 27: Project Work Day; Technique: Social Science Analysis

November 3: NO CLASS (make-up for Crown Roundtable Field Trip)

November 10: NO CLASS (Veteran’s Day)

November 17: Project Work Day; Technique: Social Science Analysis and Strategy Formation

November 24: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

December 1: Project Work Day; Technique: Technical Report and Presentation Development

December 8: Final Presentations and Course Evaluations

Finals Week: Final Projects Due