

PTRM 141Y: National Parks and American Culture

Fall 2018

Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:20

Location: Urey Lecture Hall 101

Instructor Info:

Instructor: Jennifer Thomsen, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Tues 2-4 or by appointment (Only if cannot make office hours for legitimate reason)

Teaching Assistant: Lindsey Ellett, email: lindsey.ellettt@umontana.edu

Required Readings:

Manning, R., Diamant, R., Mitchell, N. & Harmon, D. (2016) A Thinking Person's Guide to America's National Parks. New York: George Braziller Publishers.

Runte, A. (2010) National Parks: An American Experience. 4th Edition. New York: Taylor Trade Publishing.

Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

Required App:

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/724326>

Note: **our Course Join Code is 724326**

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Course Description:

As the National Park Service (NPS) enters its second century, there is no better place to learn of its origin, evolution and impact than at the University of Montana. Situated between the first national park (Yellowstone) and one of its most rapidly changing parks (Glacier) we are uniquely positioned to examine the National Park story. This course introduces undergraduates to contemporary issues in managing the places and programs that make up the U.S. national park system. Students will learn about the variety of resources, values, viewpoints, and ideas that are represented in the more than 400 units of the national park system, which stretches from Guam to Maine and Alaska to the Virgin Islands. The role of the federal agency in charge of the parks, the National Park Service, will be explored, including its work in community engagement and

historic preservation. Particular attention will be given to the social, cultural and historical context of how the National Park Service was developed and evolved. The course emphasizes the unprecedented challenges the national parks face in the coming decades, such as climate change, budget shortfalls, and the need to make the parks relevant to an ever-more-diverse society.

Course Objectives:

At the completion of the course students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- The key events in the history of national parks in the United States, and of the NPS.
- How the park system and the National Park Service developed as a result of rapid western expansion, international competition for a cultural identity and key events and the effect it has had on the broader environmental consciousness of US citizenry and globally.
- The geographic and thematic breadth of the national park system.
- The characteristics of the different management categories of the parks and how these fit within the NPS mission.
- Major functions of the national park system, such as providing recreation, preserving wilderness, conserving biodiversity, curating museum collections, and more.
- Current policy issues facing national parks and the NPS, and management responses to them.
- The relationship between U.S. national parks and protected areas elsewhere in the world.

Class Information and Expectations:

1. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.
2. Any assignments submitted later than the beginning of class will be reduced one letter grade per day. If there are legitimate reasons (e.g. medical illness proven through a doctor's excuse) which prevent an assignment from being completed on time, then a revised schedule for completing that assignment must be negotiated with the instructor.
3. 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](#).
4. Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

Overall Class Grading	Percentage
Midterm	25%
Moodle Assignments: Guest Speaker/Reading Responses	20%
National Park Before/After Reflection	10%
National Park Project	20%
Final Exam	25%

Grading scale: Note all grades will be tracked through Moodle

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

Assignments:

Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%):

The midterm will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the start of the semester to the time of the midterm. The final exam will cover class discussions, readings, and guest speakers from the midterm to the end of the semester. There will only be make-up exams for excused absences and it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor prior to the exam of the absence and a time to reschedule taking the exam.

Moodle Assignments: Guest Speaker and Reading Responses (20%):

Our class will have several guest speakers who will visit our class in-person or via Zoom. Students will be asked to complete questions for guest speakers based on the content of the speaker via Moodle. Additionally, students will be assigned readings each week. Students are responsible for the readings and will be asked to submit reading responses via Moodle. The lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester for each student.

National Park Before/After Reflection (10%)

Students will submit a one-page reflection on their perspectives and reflections on national parks at the beginning of the semester. Students will submit another one-page reflection on their perspectives and reflection on national parks at the end of the semester to assess how their perspectives may have changed or different observations after taking the course along with questions that still remain related to national parks.

National Park Project (20%):

At the beginning of the semester, each student will select one National Parks Service unit (over 400 NPS units). Students will develop a profile for their park unit outlining the major resources/attractions, visitation and activities, challenges and opportunities, etc. This will include images and other materials. Details on the assignment will be provided in class. Note, only one NPS units can be assigned per student, so if you have one in mind, reserve it soon!

In-Class Responses via Top Hat (Extra Credit)

Students will be assigned readings each week. Students are responsible for the readings and there may be responses for readings at the beginning of class using the Top Hat app. In addition, students will be asked to respond to questions via Top Hat during the class to guide a larger class discussion on the topic.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and will be taken each class. Students will earn points for their attendance which will be part of their final grade. Students with **more than three unexcused absences, will have their final grade reduced according to the following:**

4-5 unexcused absences: 1 percentage point dropped off final grade (ex. 87 drops to a 86)

6-7 unexcused absences: 2 percentage points dropped off final grade (ex. 87 drops to a 85)

8-9 unexcused absences: 3 percentage points dropped off final grade (ex. 87 drops to a 84)

Instructors may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or participation in a University sponsored activity. All PowerPoint presentations will be posted and accessible on Moodle to students.

It is important that everyone take part in the classroom activities and are respectful of other students, faculty or guest speakers. Arriving on time and leaving on time, not engaging in excessive talking, and allowing for diverse opinions are some examples of expected behavior. Behavior in these professional situations reflects not only themselves, but the university as a whole.

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Fall 2019:

Description	Date Range
Last day for students to drop classes on Cyberbear with a refund.	September 16
Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W'.	September 17-October 28
Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'WP' or 'WF' on transcript.	October 29-December 6
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 circumstances.	December 7

Tentative Class Schedule and Due Dates (subject to change):

Section 1: Foundations of the U.S. National Park System

Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments Due
August 27 th	Introduction to course and topics; keys to success; Moodle	Purchase Books and Top Hat app
August 29 th	The history of a grand idea and major milestones in the NPS	Manning (Chapter 1) Runte (Prologue)

September 3 rd	American West and Worthless Lands	Runte (Chapter 1)
September 5 th	Learning, research, and sense of place in national parks	Runte (Chapter 3) National Park Reflection 1 Due
September 10 th	Guest Speaker: Rafael Chacon , Role of art & photography in the history of national parks	Manning (Chapter 8) Runte (Chapter 5) Moodle Assignment 1 Due
September 12 th	NO CLASS	Pick National Park Unit for Project
September 17 th	Guest Speaker: Aaron Brian , Indigenous perspectives & history	Manning (Chapter 10) Readings on Moodle
September 19 th	Guest Speaker: Alan Watson : Wilderness & National Parks	Readings on Moodle Runte (Chapter 8)

Section 2: National Park Resources: Providing & Sustaining

Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments Due
September 24 th	Guest Speaker: Elena Nikoleava , National Parks as Peace Parks	Runte (Chapter 9 & Chapter 10) Moodle Assignment 2 Due
September 26 th	Guest Speaker: (Matt Folz, Xanterra) , Concessions & National Parks	Manning (Chapter 9) Runte (Chapter 4)
October 1 st	Guest Speaker: Charles Bescanon , International and Marine Protected Areas	Readings on Moodle
October 3 rd	NO CLASS- National Park Unit Project work	Manning (Chapter 6) Runte (Chapter 6) Moodle Assignment 3 Due
October 8 th	Protecting and restoring nature; adapting to a changing system	Manning (Chapter 7) Runte (Chapter 7)

Section 3: New Challenges & Opportunities in the National Parks

Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments Due
October 10 th	MIDTERM EXAM	MIDTERM EXAM
October 15 th	Guest Speaker: Tami Blackford , NPS Interpretation	Manning (Chapters 5 & Chapter 12)
October 17 th	Social media and technology in our parks	Readings on Moodle
October 22 nd	Guest Speaker: Alicia Murphy , Yellowstone National Park Visitor Management (via Zoom)	Runte (Chapter 2)
October 24 th	Guest Speaker: Norma Nickerson , National Parks and ITRR	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 4 Due
October 29 th	Guest Speaker: Mary Riddle , Glacier National Park Planning & Management	Readings on Moodle

Section 4: Coordination Beyond the National Parks

Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments Due
October 31 st	Guest Speaker: Rick Graetz , Crown of the Continent & Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem	Readings on Moodle
November 5 th	NO CLASS: Election Day	
November 7 th	Guest Speaker: Libby Metcalf Bison and Wildlife Without Borders	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 5 Due

November 12 th	Guest Speaker: Keith Bosak , International Park and Protected Area Management	Readings on Moodle
November 14 th	Urban National Parks and Museums	Manning (Chapter 15 & Chapter 16)
November 19 th	Parks Beyond Borders & Parks in Partnership	Manning (Chapter 18 & Chapter 19)
November 21 st	Soundscapes, Night Skies, and other “new” resources	Manning (Chapter 20) Moodle Assignment 6 Due
November 26 th	Civic engagement & community conservation	Manning (Chapter 11 & Chapter 17) National Park Reflection 2 Due
November 28 th	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving	
December 3 rd	Sustainability in the NPS	Manning (Chapter 21) Runte (Chapter 11)
December 5 th	A look to the future! Final Exam Review	Manning (Chapter 23) Runte (Chapter 13) NPS Project Due
December	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM