

PTRM 484: Field Techniques

Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:50 PM in Education Bldg. Room 313

3 Credits

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jenn Thomsen, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: By appointment

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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.

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 except during approved social events for students who are legally over the age of 21 years old. 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

Rafting and Public Land Day Activities 10%

Group Activities and Individual Check-In Reports 10%
Yellowstone Paper and Activities 15%
Cover Letter & Resume 10%
Group Project Report 40%
Final Presentation 15%

Attendance

As this is primarily an experiential education course, attendance is critical to student learning. Attendance to all classes and field trips is required. 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 half of letter grade for the course.**

Assignments

Rafting and Public Lands Day Activities (10%)

Students will be expected to actively engage in the class and the class activities each week. Two activities, the rafting trip to Alberton Gorge and the Public Lands Day, will require student participation and have an accompanying activity or assignment.

Group Activity and Individual Check-In Reports (10%)

Each student will be responsible for turning in a check-in report at three times during the semester. In each report, the student will briefly compile their individual contributions to the group project, the progress of the group, and any issues that need to be addressed within the group. The reports are to ensure that all members of the group are actively engaged and contributing to the workload and to address any issues/concerns within groups early on in the semester. Three reports due October 18, November 15, and exam week.

Yellowstone Reflection Paper and Activities (15%)

Students will write a reflection paper that includes responses to questions and activities for the trip to Yellowstone National Park and meetings with other professionals. Due: October 11.

Cover Letter and Resume (10%)

Students will find a potential job that aligns with your career goals. Students will write a cover letter and update their resumes as if submitting for the job. Students will hand in materials to get detailed feedback to strengthen materials for an actual application process. Due: November 1.

Group Project Report (40%)

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. Note: Peer evaluations of group members' contributions to the project will influence individual student grades for the group project. Due: Exam Week (exact date TBD).

Final Presentation (15%)

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. Due: December 6.

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.

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 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

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

August 30: Introduction to class & projects; Info/prep on Yellowstone trip; IRB Training; waivers/forms

September 6: Field trip to Whitewater Rafting Trip at Alberton Gorge; ***IRB Training Certificate Due***
Technique: Recreational Carrying Capacity and Management Plan Development

September 13: NO CLASS (make-up for Yellowstone Trip)

September 20: Intro to Projects, Partners, and Field Sites

September 27: NO CLASS (National Public Lands Day on Saturday)

Saturday, September 28: National Public Lands Day at Field Site (*no class on September 27th*)
Technique: Social Science Data Collection

October 2-5: FIELD TRIP to Yellowstone National Park

Technique: Assessing Recreation Impacts; Visitor Management and Monitoring

October 11: Project Check-in and Planning- meet in classroom; ***Yellowstone Paper Due***
Technique: Adaptive Project Planning

October 18: Project Work Day; **Progress Report 1 Due**
Technique: Field Work/Data Collection

October 25: NO CLASS (make-up for Yellowstone Trip)

November 1: Project Work Day- **Cover Letter & Resume Due- Meet with partners**
Technique: Field Work/Data Collection

November 8: Project Work Day
Technique: Analysis and Strategy Formation

November 15: Project Work Day- meet in classroom; **Progress Report 2 Due**
Technique: Analysis and Strategy Formation, Technical Report Development

November 22: Project Work Day- meet in classroom;
Technique: Technical Report and Presentation Development

November 29: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

December 6: Final Presentations and Course Evaluations

Finals Week: Final Projects Due; Progress Report 3 Due