

PTRM 141Y: National Parks and American Culture

Fall 2018

Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:20

Instructor Info:

Instructor: Jennifer Thomsen, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Sam Pannoni email: sam.pannoni@umontana.edu

Required Readings:

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

Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

Recommended 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.

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 (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 accommodation.
2. All assignments are due by midnight on the due date and to be submitted through Moodle. Any assignments submitted later than midnight will be reduced half a letter grade for each day it is late. 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. The Code is available for review online at: [Student Conduct Code Web Page](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)
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
Exams	60%
Guest Speaker/Reading Responses	25%
National Park Project	15%

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:

Exams (60%):

There will be three exams over the course of the semester. Each exam covers the material from that section of the course. Exams will cover material from class discussions, readings, and guest speakers. 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.

Guest Speaker and Reading Responses (25%):

Our class will have several guest speakers who will join the class live via Zoom or pre-record their presentation. 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.

National Park Project (15%):

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!

Attendance and PowerPoint Access:

Due to the remote structure of the course, attendance will not be taken. However, it is strongly recommended to engage in the Live Zoom sessions especially with guest speakers as there will be opportunity for questions and discussion. When possible, lectures will be recorded and posted on Moodle through a YouTube link. It is important that everyone take part in the classroom activities and are respectful of other students, faculty or guest speakers.

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Fall 2020:

Description	Date Range
Last day for students to drop classes on Cyberbear with a refund.	September 9
Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W'.	September 10-October 21
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 22-November 18
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.	November 18 (after 5:00 pm)

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

Section 1: Influential Movements of the National Park System		
Date	Class Format and Topic	Readings/Assignments Due
August 20 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Introduction to course and topics; keys to success; Moodle	Purchase Book & access Moodle site
August 25 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> History & Major Milestones in the NPS	Runte: Prologue & Chapter 1

August 27 th	<i>Recorded Lecture:</i> American West & Diverse Units of the National Park System	Runte: Chapter 3 & Chapter 5
September 1 st	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Role of art & photography in the history of national parks	Runte Chapter 4 Moodle Assignment 1 Due
September 3 rd	<i>Recorded Lecture:</i> Wilderness vs. Frontcountry – Managing for Diverse Experiences	Readings on Moodle & Runte Chapter 8
September 8 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Native American Displacement	Readings on Moodle Pick National Park Unit
September 15 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Tribal Parks in Canada and the U.S.	Readings on Moodle
September 17 th	Section 1 Exam on Moodle	Section 1 Exam
Section 2: Sustaining & Managing National Park Resources		
September 22 nd	<i>Live Zoom: (Guest Speaker: Mark Biel):</i> Wildlife Management at Glacier National Park	Runte Chapter 6
September 24 th	<i>Live Zoom: (Guest Speaker: Kalani Quicho)</i> Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument	Readings on Moodle
September 29 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Urban national parks and museums	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 2 Due
October 1 st	<i>Recorded Lecture:</i> Protecting and restoring nature	Runte Chapter 7 & Chapter 11
October 6 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Cultural and Heritage Resources (Guest Speaker: Linda Cook)	Runte Chapter 9
October 8 th	<i>Recorded Lecture:</i> Soundscapes & Night Skies	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 3 Due
October 13 th	Section 2 Exam on Moodle	Section 2 Exam
Section 3: New Challenges & Opportunities for the National Park System		
October 15 th	<i>Recorded Lecture: (Guest speaker: Zach Miller):</i> Social Media & Technology	Readings on Moodle
October 20 th	<i>Live Zoom: (Guest Speaker: Bob Powell):</i> NPS Interpretation	Readings on Moodle
October 22 nd	<i>Live Zoom: (Guest Speaker: Dylan Hoffman):</i> Xanterra Concessions & National Parks	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 4 Due
October 27 th	<i>Recorded Lecture:</i> Civic Engagement & Gateway Communities	Readings on Moodle
October 29 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Diversity & Inclusion in the NPS	Readings on Moodle
November 3 rd	NO CLASS: Election Day	
November 5 th	<i>Live Zoom: (Guest Speaker: Dexter Armstrong)</i> Historic Monuments & Racism	Readings on Moodle Moodle Assignment 5 Due
November 10 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Parks Beyond Borders & Parks in Partnership; Thru-hiking and long-distance trails	Readings on Moodle
November 12 th	<i>Recorded Lecture: (Guest Speaker: Jon Putnam)</i> International Park & Protected Areas	Readings on Moodle NPS Project Due
November 17 th	<i>Live Zoom:</i> Sustainability in the NPS & Conclusions	Readings on Moodle & Runte Chapter 13
November 20 th (10:10-12:10)	Section 3 Exam on Moodle	Section 3 Exam