

PTRM 484: Field Techniques (PTRM Capstone)
Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:50 PM in Gilkey Room 105
3 Credits

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jenn Thomsen
Clapp Building (CHCB) 465
862.216.3035 (cell)
Jennifer.thomsen@umontana.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jaclyn Rushing; email: jaclyn.rushing@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 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. As weekly meeting 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 project work and presentations.

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.

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](#).

Transportation Policy

Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to any field trip, but need to communicate with the instructor prior to the day of the field trip. Students are welcome to, but *not required* to drive to field learning sites. Students who drive their own vehicles will not be reimbursed for mileage and are covered only by their own auto insurance. If students choose to drive together (car pool), please note the driver is liable for not only themselves but also the passenger (as with any private vehicle). If you have a passenger in your vehicle, we recommend that you follow all safety recommendations for UM group travel:

- Limit to one student per row in each vehicle
- Masks are required in all vehicles
- If running heat or air conditioning, recirculating vehicle air should be disabled.
- All occupants of shared vehicles should sit in the same seat in the same vehicle for the duration of the trip (i.e. seats are assigned). In cases where driver fatigue occurs, wipe down high touch areas in both seating areas with appropriate disinfectant before switching drivers.

Social Distancing and Mask Policy

Students will be required to wear a mask at all times during indoor or classroom settings. Classrooms will be equipped for adequate social distancing of six feet between students. Masks are required in outdoor settings with the following exceptions: (1) if students are working alone and are far apart (with no chance that they will come in contact with each other, TAs, or instructors) or (2) if students are stationary (e.g. sitting in a circle) and can maintain social distance (i.e. at least 6 feet apart). Thus, students should have their masks on when they arrive at the field trip location and only remove their masks when the instructor indicates that they can. When meeting with guest speakers, students may be required to wear masks even if they are stationary and socially distanced, depending on the preference of the speaker.

Evaluation

Assignments and Percentage of Final Grade

Field Trip Worksheets and Individual Check-In Reports 25%

COVID Impact Paper 10%

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 unless already discussed with the instructor.

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. 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, notify instructor in advance to work out make-up assignments. 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

Field Trip Worksheets and Individual Check-In Reports (25%)

There will be four field trips during the semester to meet with professionals and engage in activities related to a specific topic. Worksheets for each field trip will be due the following week. Additionally, each student will be responsible for turning in a check-in report 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.

COVID Impact Paper (10%)

Students will write a paper that discusses the impacts of COVID-19 on outdoor recreation, parks, and tourism. Guidelines will be provided.

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.

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.

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.

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 check email 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 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)

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
August 21 st	Introduction to class & projects; Info/prep on trips; IRB Training;	
August 28 th	River Management Day (Field trip to Clark Fork River); Technique: Recreational Carrying Capacity	IRB Training Certificate Due
September 4 th	No class (make-up for longer field trip days)	
September 11 th	Intro to Projects & Partners	River Management Worksheet Due
September 18 th	Facility Management Day: (Field trip to Lubrecht Experimental Forest)	
September 25 th	Project Work Day Technique: Field Work (different for each project)	Facility Management Worksheet Due
October 2 nd	Multi-Use Trail Management Day: (Field trip to Blue Mountain Recreation Area); Technique: Assessing Recreation Impacts; Visitor Management and Monitoring	COVID Impact Paper Due
October 9 th	Project Work Day Technique: Field Work (different for each project)	Multi-Use Trail Worksheet Due
October 16 th	Project Work Day Technique: Field Work (different for each project)	Progress Report 1 Due
October 23 rd	Hunting and Fishing Management Day: (Meeting with Onyx Maps via Zoom) Technique: Using Technology for Recreational Management	Cover Letter & Resume Due
October 30 th	Project Work Day Technique: Analysis and Strategy Formation	Hunting & Fishing Mgmt Worksheet Due
November 6 th	Project Work Day Technique: Technical Report and Presentation Development	
November 13 th	Final Presentations and Course Evaluations Technique: Technical Report and Professional Presentations	Progress Report 2 Due Final Project Due Exam Week