

**PTRM 141Y: National Parks and American Culture
Spring 2022**

Mon, Wed, Fri: 10:00-10:50

Location: Forestry Room 305

Instructor: Jennifer Thomsen, Ph.D.

Office: CHCB (Clapp) 410

Email: jennifer.thomsen@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Eliana Moustakas email: Eliana.moustakas@umconnect.umt.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 Reading:

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 and the dynamic history of the NPS. 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 as well as the historical relations with Native Americans and their lands. 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 and inclusive to an ever-more-diverse society.

Learning Goals:

This course fulfills a General Education requirement for Democracy and Citizenship (Y). At the completion of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate informed and reasoned understanding of democratic ideas, institutions and practices, from historical and/or contemporary perspectives related to the National Park Service and National Park System.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance and complexities of engaged citizenship of the National Park Service and National Park System.

- Articulate the causes and consequences of key historical and/or contemporary struggles within National Park Service and National Park System, including but not limited to those pertaining to issues of diversity, equity, and justice.
- Identify the influential movements in the history of the National Park Service and National Park System.
- Assess how the National Park Service and National Park System developed as a result of rapid western expansion, international competition for a cultural identity, and displacement of Native Americans and the effect it has had on the broader environmental consciousness of US citizenry and globally.
- Analyze the different management strategies in response to complex social, cultural, and ecological challenges.
- Explore the relationship between U.S. national parks and protected areas elsewhere in the world.

Class Information and Expectations:

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.

Student Accessibility: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately.

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. Students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#) and abide by all University policies during field trips/off-campus.

Late Assignment Policy

All assignments are submitted via Moodle and are due on the date and time listed on Moodle for that assignment. Any assignments submitted late will be reduced in points based on the lateness of the assignment. 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 discussed with the instructor.

Overall Class Grading	Percentage
Exams	50%
Soundscape and Dark Sky Reflection	5%
Native American Displacement Reflection	5%
National Park Podcast Reflection	5%
Wildlife Species Reflection	5%
Social Media Reflection	5%
DEI Reflection	5%
National Park Project	15%
Participation	5%

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 (50%):

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.

Reflection Assignments (30%):

There will be six reflection assignments due throughout the semester. Each reflection will have prompts to respond to or an activity to complete based on the topic. Details of reflection assignments will be posted on Moodle at a week prior to the assignment.

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 (5%):

In-person attendance is expected for class except for an excused absence. Lectures will not be recorded and students are expected to get caught up on material missed from class. Some guest speakers may join class via Zoom and on those classes, all students will join class via Zoom. It is important that everyone take part in the classroom activities and are respectful of other students, faculty or guest speakers. Attendance will be taken each class and will contribute to your participation grade for class. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence for the semester.

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Spring 2022:

Description	Date Range
Last day for students to drop classes on Cyberbear with a refund.	February 7
Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W'.	February 8- March 29
Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'WP' or 'WF' on transcript.	March 30- May 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.	After May 6

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

Section 1: Influential Movements of the National Park System		
Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments Due
January 19 th	Introduction to course and topics; keys to success; Moodle	
January 21 st	History & Major Milestones in the NPS	Runte Chapter 1
January 24 th	History & Major Milestones in the NPS	
January 26 th	American West & Diverse Units of the National Park System	Runte Chapter 3
January 28 th	NO CLASS: Get outside and relax! Listen to podcast!	
January 31 st	Role of art & photography in the history of national parks	Podcast Reflection Due
February 2 nd	National Park Service podcasts	Runte Chapter 5
February 4 th	Native American Displacement	Readings on Moodle
February 7 th	Native American Displacement	
February 9 th	Tribal Parks & Indigenous Conservation Areas	Native American Displacement Reflection Due
February 11 th	Wilderness vs. Frontcountry – Managing for Diverse Experiences	Runte Chapter 8
February 14 th	NO CLASS: NPS Project Work Day	
February 16 th	Evolving NPS System & Review	Runte Chapter 11
February 18 th	Section 1 Exam on Moodle	Section 1 Exam
Section 2: Sustaining & Managing National Park Resources		
February 21 st	NO CLASS: Presidents' Day	
February 23 rd	ZOOM: Wildlife Management; Guest Speaker: Mark Biel, Natural Resource Program Manager, Glacier National Park	Runte Chapter 6

February 25 th	Wildlife Management	Wildlife Management Reflection Due
February 28 th	Historic Resources and Sites	Readings on Moodle
March 2 nd	Urban national parks and museums	
March 4 th	ZOOM: Aquatic Resource Management; Guest Speaker: Tatiana Marquez, Park Planner, Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks	Readings on Moodle
March 7 th	Reintroducing Species	Runte Chapter 7
March 9 th	Soundscapes	Readings on Moodle
March 11 th	Dark Skies	Soundscapes & Dark Skies Reflection Due
March 14 th	Cultural and Heritage Resources	Runte Chapter 9
March 16 th	Cultural and Heritage Resources	
March 18 th	Section 2 Exam on Moodle	Section 2 Exam
Section 3: Challenges & Opportunities for the National Park System		
March 21 st - 25 th	NO CLASS: Spring Break	
March 28 th	Social Media & Communication	Readings on Moodle
March 30 th	Social Media & Communication	Social Media Reflection Due
April 1 st	Drones & E-bikes	Readings on Moodle
April 4 th	NO CLASS: NPS Project Work Day	
April 6 th	ZOOM: NPS Interpretation in the Park; Guest Speaker: Kerry Olson, Deputy Associate Director (A), Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers, National Park Service	Readings on Moodle
April 8 th	NPS Interpretation outside the Park	
April 11 th	Historic Monuments & Racism	Readings on Moodle
April 13 th	ZOOM: Relevancy, Diversity & Inclusion in the NPS; Guest Speaker: Dexter Armstrong, Supervisory Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park	DEI Reflection Due
April 15 th	Relevancy, Diversity & Inclusion in the NPS	Readings on Moodle
April 18 th	Gateway Communities	Readings on Moodle
April 20 th	Transportation Planning & Ticketed Entry	
April 22 nd	Civic Engagement	
April 25 th	Parks Beyond Borders & Parks in Partnership	Readings on Moodle
April 27 th	ZOOM: Xanterra Concessions; Guest Speaker: Dylan Hoffman, Director of Sustainability for Xanterra @ Yellowstone National Park	
April 29 th	Thru-hiking and long-distance trails	Readings on Moodle
May 2 nd	ZOOM: International Parks and Protected Areas; Guest Speaker: Jon Putnam, Office of International Affairs, NPS	NPS Project Due
May 4 th	International Parks & Protected Areas	Readings on Moodle
May 6 th	NPS Project Sharing & Review	Runte Chapter 13
May 12 th	Section 3 Exam on Moodle (10:10-12:10)	Section 3 Exam