Spring 2015

RTM 485: Outdoor Recreation Planning & Policy (3 Units)

Schedule# 22752
January 26 to May 4, 2015
M 4:00 – 6:40 PM LSS 244

Course Description
Nature and scope of recreation in nonurban areas. Public demand for recreation and its impact on natural resources. Management, planning, research and operation of regional and national park and recreation areas. (Adapted from the SDSU General Catalog & Announcement of Courses, 2014-2015).

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of outdoor recreation planning and policy issues and the experiential values of outdoor recreation pursuits in various outdoor settings in San Diego County. In order to accomplish the objectives, this course will involve reading, writing, classroom activities, presentations, guest speakers, videos, and field experience (No Prerequisites).

Warning: A component of this class requires students to attend three (3) field experiences in San Diego County during regular scheduled class times, but outside of the regular classroom.

Instructor
Jason Hemmens
Telephone: (858) 966-1342
Email: jason.hemmens@sdcounty.ca.gov
Office hours: By appointment only, due to off campus work location.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the values of protected landscapes to individuals and to society.
2. Discuss scientific, political, international, and ethical dimensions of natural landscapes with implications for protection, visitor management, and sustainable tourism.
3. Articulate the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of, and access to, recreation and tourism resources.
4. Communicate and mediate clearly and with a style that supports the purposes of the intended recreation, parks, and tourism audience.
5. Assess the performance effectiveness of current recreation, parks, and tourism practices, procedures, and plans through the research and evaluation of objective data.
6. Develop and articulate his/her personal philosophy of recreation, park, and tourism services.
Course Work

Exams (200 points; 100 points each; dates: 3/9, 5/4, 2015):
Exams will be given to measure student comprehension and retention of key concepts from class sessions, reading assignments, guest speakers, and field assignments. Exams can consist of (matching, true-false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay). Only under extreme conditions will make-up exams be allowed. Contact the professor before the exam for any special arrangements which are necessary. Otherwise, there will be a 50% penalty.

Reading Quizzes (50 points; dates: TBD 2015):
The reading quizzes will consist of multiple choice and short answer (fill in) questions from *Natural Resources and the Informed Citizen & Reflections from the North Country*.

Job Fair & Paper (20 points; date: 3/10, 2015):
Students will be required to attend SDSU Agency Night on the campus of San Diego State University on February 24, 2014 and complete a short (1-2) page opinion analysis paper. The paper will examine students' attitudes and perceptions of the speakers, booths, and overall event. More information will be provided by the instructor later in the semester. This is a great networking opportunity!

Field Experiences (30 points; 10 points each; dates: 2/16, 3/16, 4/13, 2015):
This semester will focus on planning and policy issues and the experiential values of outdoor recreation pursuits in various outdoor settings in San Diego County. Participation in field trip experiences is critical in order to gain a “hands on” understanding of the various planning and policy issues at each park or facility; therefore students will receive credit for attending each of the four field experiences. **We will meet “rain or shine” for all field trips. Please come prepared for the weather conditions during each of the field outings.**

Term Project (150 points; due dates: 4/27, 2015):
As stated earlier, the class will include four field trips to investigate outdoor recreation planning and policy issues. Attendance during field trips is important because this is what the course is all about. The written projects should be both an assessment of outdoor recreation planning and policy issues, which you will research on your own, and your response to one of the field experiences itself. The papers should be in the range of five - eight pages per project. Additionally, the project will include an oral presentation. More information will be provided by the instructor later in the semester.

**Missed Exams and Late Assignments:** Students must take exams at their assigned time/date except for serious and compelling reasons. Assignments are due at the required class meeting. Assignments submitted after 4:00 p.m. on the required due date will be considered one class day late and be reduced by 50% of the overall grade. Paper submitted two days late will receive a score of 0%. Students are required to provide documentation for any absence before the student is allowed to make up missed work. Students participating in University activities are expected to give each instructor a statement before the absence signed by a responsible official that specifies the dates and times the student will miss class.
**Writing Format:** All written assignments are to be typed, double spaced, applying a 12-point Times New Roman font and 1-inch margins. Since writing is an important component of this class, students are required to spell-check their work before submitting it to the instructor. Assignments with spelling, grammatical, and/or formatting errors will be penalized via point deductions.

**Course Grading**

Assignment of final semester grades will be based upon a percentage system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>(418 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(405 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(394 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>(372 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(360 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(349 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>(327 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(315 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(304 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>(282 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>(270 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>(below 270 pts.)</td>
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Final course marks will be determined by the percentages (as above) derived from the following weighted assignments:

- Exams (2 @ 100 pts. each) 200 points
- In-Class Reading Quizzes 50 points
- Job Fair & Paper 20 points
- Field Experiences 30 points
- Term Project & Oral Presentation 150 points

**TOTAL** 450 points

**Additional Information:**

**Learning Environment:** This course will involve lectures, discussion of assigned readings, in-class exercises, group exercises, videos, etc., it is very important that students attend class in order to learn. Students are responsible for the course material covered in class. SDSU’s course management system, Blackboard, will be employed to make all course-related communication, syllabus, lectures, and assignments available to students. In case of lack of familiarity with the Blackboard system, please obtain immediate training through Student Computing Services. To create a user account for this course, go to [http://blackboard.sdsu.edu](http://blackboard.sdsu.edu).

**Required Readings:** Two books are required for this course.

The main text, *Natural Resources and the Informed Citizen*, covers an array of topics including: resource scarcity and demand, the evolution of the American land ethic, structures of federal resource agencies, property rights issues, citizen involvement, and an overview of management practices pertaining to wildlife, forestry, range, water, and minerals. Dennis, S. (Ed.), *Natural Resources and the Informed Citizen*, State College, PA: Sagamore Publishing, 2012 (Available at the SDSU Bookstore).

**Classroom Conduct:** Please turn off cell phones before class. Arriving late, leaving early, and talking during class can be disruptive to the instructor and to other students and should be minimized. If you are late to class, please find a seat in the back of the classroom.

**Plagiarism:** Intentional or unintentional plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and all instances will be reported to SDSU’s Office of Judicial Procedures. For further information on plagiarism and the policies regarding academic dishonesty go to page #479 in the 2014-2015 General Catalog section on Standards for Student Conduct (41304).

**Crashing Policy:** Preference will be given, in this order, to: 1) Senior’s pursuing a Recreation and Tourism Management (RTM) degree, 2) Junior RTM students, followed by 3) Sophomore RTM students, 4) Freshman RTM students, and 5) RTM minor’s.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who need accommodation of their disabilities should contact me privately, within the first two weeks of the semester, to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

**Special Treatment:** Over many years of teaching I have found that, recently, the number of students who seek special consideration at the end of the semester has increased. This practice is especially common among students who have missed quizzes or done poorly on assignments. Seeking special favors is not fair to all the hard-working students who have kept up with the course work over the entire semester and reflects a lack of integrity. Furthermore, university policy does not allow professors to change grades or permit individual students to earn extra points without that same opportunity being available to every student in the class. **If you are concerned about your grade the time to do something about that is right now at the beginning of the class and throughout the full semester.** If you must have a certain grade in the class to meet eligibility requirements for a major, a scholarship, athletics, or graduate school then it is your responsibility to see that you earn that grade. Out of respect for hard-working and honest students in the class, and university policy, I cannot provide special treatment for individual students. Although it is my hope that everyone is successful, that will ultimately be up to each of you. The course is designed to reward your efforts. If you want to do well in the class you will.
Tentative Course Calendar for RTM 485 (Spring 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1/26   | Course Introduction  
_Reading Assignment - (NRIC Chapters 1 - 4) _                                                                                      |
| 2/2    | The Values and Demands on Natural Resources & America’s Common Lands & Land Ethics County of San Diego Planning and Policy Issues  
_Reading Assignment -( NRIC Chapters 5 -11; RFNC Part 1) _                                                                 |
| 2/9    | Federal Resource Authority and Regulatory Process & Federal Agencies – **Online Lecture**                                            |
| 2/16   | Field Experience— Sweetwater Regional Park*                                                                                           |
| 2/23   | Attend Job Fair on 2/24 @ Montezuma Hall from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
_Reading Assignment -(NRIC Chapters 12 - 13) _                                                                 |
| 3/2    | Guest Speaker – Dave Holt, District Manager, County of SD Dept. of Parks & Rec.  
State and Municipal Governments Involvement in Natural Resources  
Review for Exam                                                                                                               |
| 3/9    | **First Exam**  
**Job Fair Paper Due**                                                                                                               |
| 3/16   | Field Experience— Los Penasquitos Ranch House *  
_Reading Assignment -(NRIC Chapters 14 - 17; RFNC Part 2) _                                                                          |
| 3/23   | Nature Deficit Disorder & Citizen Involvement in Natural Resource Issues  
_Reading Assignment -(NRIC Chapters 18 - 20) _                                                                                       |
| 3/30   | NO CLASS (Spring Break)                                                                                                               |
| 4/6    | Multiple Species Conservation Program & Natural Resources Controversies – **Online Lecture**                                        |
| 4/13   | Field Experience— Felicita Regional Park*  
_Reading Assignment - (NRIC Chapters 21 & 22; RFNC Part 3) _                                                                          |
| 4/20   | Water Conservation & Energy Efficiency  
_Reading Assignment - (NRIC Chapters 23 & 24) _                                                                                     |
| 4/27   | Course Summary and Review for Exam  
_(Field Experience Papers Due & Oral Presentations)_                                                                                   |
| 5/4    | **Second Exam**                                                                                                                        |

*We will meet “rain or shine” for all field trips. Please come prepared for the weather conditions during each of the field outings.*