

RLST 2030: INTRODUCTION TO RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES
University of Georgia / Recreation and Leisure Studies
Fall, 2004

Dr. Diane Samdahl
dsamdahl@coe.uga.edu
349 Ramsey, 542-4333

9:05-9:50 M/W/F
205 Ramsey

Course Description: The history and development of the organized park and recreation movement, the theoretical underpinnings of recreation and leisure studies, and contemporary recreation and leisure services.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course each student should demonstrate an understanding of:

1. the history of recreation and leisure and the role that history plays in current attitudes toward recreation and leisure
2. various theories and philosophies of recreation and leisure;
3. factors that influence leisure attitudes and behaviors;
4. various types of leisure service agencies; and
5. diverse career opportunities in the field of recreation and leisure.

Required Reading:

Kraus, R., Barber, E., & Shapiro, I. Introduction to Leisure Services: Career Perspectives.
Champaign, IL: Sagamore Publishing.

Students will be required to purchase and read a paperback book (mystery/fiction) which will be available at the bookstore (title to be announced later).

Additional chapters, articles, and other supplemental materials will be required and will be available online. The instructor will not provide many handouts; students are expected to print the required materials from the class webpage.

www.coe.uga.edu/~dsamdahl/2030_main_class_webpage.html

Other Supplies:

Students must bring several sheets of lined notebook paper to class each day for possible in-class activities. Three-ring punched paper is okay; the instructor will not accept paper torn from a spiral notebook.

You may wish to purchase a 3-ring binder to hold the written activities and assignments and the on-line readings that you choose to print.

Students need access to a printer to make copies of on-line materials. If you do not have a printer, keep a cash balance on your MyID card to print in the campus computer labs.

Note: Changes to this syllabus are possible and, if made, will be announced in class and posted on the class webpage.

Class Structure:

This class will be a mixture of lecture, student discussion, class activities, and guest speakers. Students will engage with the material through many small assignments including reaction papers, opinion papers, and reflection on controversial issues. Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and be prepared to engage in activities associated with those readings. The instructor will not cover the assigned readings in lecture.

This style of class requires students to become “engaged learners” and to take responsibility for their own learning. Rather than memorizing material to repeat back on an exam (but there might be some of that), students will reflect on the readings and use that material as the foundation for their own thoughts and opinions. It will *not* be possible to do well in this class without doing the readings and engaging in careful reflection on related issues.

Communication skills will be an important part of class activities, and writing skills are an important part of the assignments. Agencies that employ our graduates tell us that communication skills are one of the most important traits they look for when hiring employees. Your speaking and writing skills should become stronger as you move through this major. Consider working with the UGA Writing Center (66 Park Hall) if your writing skills prevent you from expressing your ideas effectively.

Expectations:

1. Attendance

Students are expected to attend class and to be on time. Absences will be noted. Though there are no “excused” absences, students are encouraged to notify the instructor beforehand for anticipated absences or email the instructor as soon as possible for unexpected absences. Students will be allowed to make up one missed in-class activity (or equivalent assignment) *except on days when there are guest speakers*.

2. Professionalism

This is the first class in the RLST major; it is a starting point for building your career in this field. Students are expected to show respect to the instructor and to one another. This is demonstrated in numerous ways including being on time, giving full attention in class, engaging in discussion and problem-solving, working collaboratively in groups, and taking responsibility for learning the material. Assignments must be neat with little or no grammatical and spelling errors, and they must indicate a serious effort to do a good job.

3. Late papers

All material is due as assigned. Papers due on a class day should be turned in at the beginning of class. Papers turned in late will be graded down 10% per day, including an immediate 10% if something is turned in late on the day it is due.

4. Culture of Honesty (http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm)

Students are expected to do their own work for individualized assignments and to contribute equally to group assignments. Any student found plagiarizing a written assignment or falsifying a course requirement will either receive a failing grade for the

course or be referred for University disciplinary action.

5. Special Needs / Unanticipated Events

Students with special educational needs should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term. If something occurs mid-term that affects your attendance or performance in this class, please contact the instructor to discuss it.

Format of Assignments:

Except for in-class activities, all other assignments or written work must be typed. Assignments are due at the beginning of the assigned class period and late papers will be graded down 10% per day including the day the assignment was due.

- Pages must be stapled together; do not use paperclips or a plastic binder.
- Put your name and date at the top of the paper. Do not use a separate cover sheet.
- For discussion questions, copy (or summarize) the question at the top of the page before you begin your answer.
- Use 12-point font and 1 inch margins.
- For short opinion or reflection papers, using single space lines is okay. Be sure to indent new paragraphs.
- For the longer assigned papers, type using double space lines. Indent the first line of new paragraphs (no extra line between paragraphs).
- Papers will not be accepted as email attachments. They must be physically turned in unless an assignment requires you to post to WebCT.

Assignments:

On-going Journal: Students must do reflective journaling on a weekly basis throughout the term. This is an opportunity to write out thoughts, feelings, and reactions to material that has been presented or discussed in class. Not only will this help you engage with the material, it will become a useful resource for reflections on what you've learned (which might be one of the essay questions on the final). The instructor will ask to see your journals at some point during the term, and they must be turned in at the end of the semester. Journals must be typed.

Journal: minimum of 1 page per week single spaced

Turn in full journal on 11/29 40 points

J&J Flea Market: Students must visit the J&J Flea Market north of Athens on Hwy 441 and write a paper describing and reflecting on their observations of this place. A handout will be provided with guidelines on what to observe at the market, with an emphasis on understanding this as a leisure context characterized by cultural diversity.

Paper: 3-4 pages double-spaced, due 9/20 15 points

Interview Assignment: Students must identify a professional working in the leisure service field in a job similar to what the student would like to do. Interview this individual (in person, not by email or telephone) about aspects of their job. Class time will be spent developing effective interview questions. A handout will be provided with further guidelines about the interview and the paper.

Paper: 3-4 pages double-spaced, due 10/18 25 points

Election Assignment: Students will identify one issue relevant to the field of leisure services that is

at stake in the upcoming presidential election. Briefly describe or document that issue then summarize the views or position of Bush and Kerry on that issue. Your paper should clearly indicate an understanding of the interrelationships of some aspect of our field and the political climate in Washington D.C.

Paper: 2-3 pages double spaced, due 11/1 10 points

Fiction Assignment: Students will read one of two fiction/mystery books selected by the instructor and write a paper reflecting on the links between leisure, reading, and cultural understanding. Class time will be devoted to introducing this assignment and a handout will be provided to guide students' reading. One class period will be devoted to small group discussion of the books.

Paper: 3-4 pages double spaced, due 11/15 25 points

Leisure Expense Diary: For a given time period, students will record their spending on leisure and recreation, and also record those things that they do that do not entail money. Write a reflective paper on the different nature of activities that require money and those that do not. Further guidance on this assignment will be provided in class.

Paper: 2-3 pages double spaced, due 11/10 15 points

Student Projects: Working in groups, students will research a topic that relates to some aspect of this class with deadlines and progress reports due throughout the semester. Towards the end of the semester students will give brief presentations on their project, and turn in a final report. There will be an individual component as well as a group grade on the project. Further guidance and details will be provided in class.

Paper: typically about 12-15 pages depending on project 60 points

Grading:

A handout called "Characteristics of a Grade" is posted on the class webpage (and assigned for 8/22). Read it to understand the qualities of strong written work. In general, a grade of C represents the bare minimum of what was requested. It should clearly draw upon the assigned material but doesn't demonstrate much independent thinking or individual insight. Work that doesn't fulfill the assignment is graded lower. Work that demonstrates the student's ability to use and work with the issues will earn a higher grade. Top grades require the student to be proficient at expressing his/her thoughts in written format.

Class grades will total between 380-410 points overall, as shown below:

<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Exams</u>	
J&J assignment	15 pts	Quiz 1	20 pts
Interview assignment	25 pts	Quiz 2	30 pts
Fiction assignment	25 pts	Quiz 3	20 pts
Election assignment	10 pts	Final essay(s)	40 pts
Leisure expense	15 pts		
Final project	60 pts	Participation /	
Ongoing journal	30 pts	Professionalism	20 pts
In-class/reflections	70-120 pts		
Total assignments	250-300 pts	Total exams	130 pts

TOTAL OVERALL: 380 to 430 points