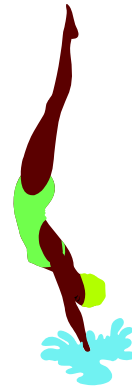


PRT 152

Introduction to Parks, Recreation, and Tourism



General Description

Introduction

I want to share with you a quote from a term paper written by a college student several years ago:

...we are talking about such things as who had a better day because they saw the planting of azaleas on the way to work, or the wildflowers in bloom in a meadow, or the squirrel climbing that tree in an undisturbed area, or the child with a disability who learned to swim, and in later years saved somebody's life, or the senior citizen who learned a new handicraft. You cannot put a value figure on these experiences.¹

How true this message remains! The imagery of this passage shows us why parks, recreation, and tourism is more than a body of knowledge, more than just advertised programs, facilities, and services. It's a study of the human experience.

Course Description

PRT 152 is the introductory course for all students in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management curriculum at NC State University. It is also an open elective for students in a variety of majors. It addresses concepts and principles related to leisure service management such as: the evolution of current park and recreation practices; the individual, sociological, and economical impacts of parks, recreation, and tourism; and an overview of leisure delivery systems, agencies, and

¹ J.L. Crompton and C.W. Lamb, "Effectiveness (Not Efficiency) is the Primary Measure of Program Success," in *Issues in an Era of Change*, 3rd ed., T.L. Goodale and P.A. Witt, eds. (State College, PA: Venture Publishing, Inc., 1991), p. 171.

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organizations. The course is designed to provide the framework for further study of parks, recreation, and tourism.

Course Objectives

The focus of this course is to help you realize the pervasiveness of leisure, play, and recreation in our culture and the vital role it plays in our lives. I have organized the information around this principle. The aim of this course is to

- gain an understanding of the scope and goals of parks, recreation, and tourism management by studying the
 - history of recreation
 - forces that influence leisure services today
 - values and motivations behind leisure behavior, focusing on the needs and interests of diverse populations
 - benefits of parks and recreation provided by various government and private leisure service agencies
- give you background information and a context for developing a personal philosophy of leisure
- examine the critical issues and current trends in parks, recreation, and tourism.

Course Approach

The course is organized by topic, based on the guiding principle that leisure, play, and recreation are pervasive in our society. We will introduce these concepts, define them, and decide what they mean to the individual. We'll review the historic evolution of these concepts, and discuss how parks, recreation, and tourism—along with leisure—has developed into a professional body of knowledge, an essential government service, and a multi-billion dollar industry. The course will culminate in a discussion of the challenges and issues facing the profession in the twenty-first century and the need for a professional philosophy, similar to the personal philosophy quoted at the beginning of the manual.

Required Textbook

One textbook is required for PRT 152: *Kraus' Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society*, 7th edition (2005) by Daniel D. McLean, Amy R. Hurd, and Nancy Brattain Rogers.

You may purchase this textbook from the Higher Grounds bookstore at the Friday Center, using the book order form in this course manual or you can order it online at <https://s4.its.unc.edu/HigherGrounds>.

The Kraus text is a fine introductory text for students seeking information about leisure concepts and the park and recreation profession. As you read the chapters, I challenge you to critically evaluate the information presented, draw some of your own conclusions based on your prior knowledge and experiences, and research topics about which you have questions or further interest. This textbook and course should get you thinking, and thinking is a good thing!

Optional Textbooks

In the discussion sections of this manual I will rely heavily on two additional texts. They are also available at Higher Grounds, and you may purchase them if you like, but they are not required:

- *Recreation and Leisure: Issues in an Era of Change*, 3rd edition (1991) by Thomas Goodale and Peter Witt
- *A Social History of Leisure Since 1600* (1990) by Gary Cross.

Study Suggestions

The course is divided into twelve lessons, corresponding to each chapter of the text. Each lesson has an assignment that you will submit for grading. Pay particular attention to the objectives for each lesson and use them to guide you as you read the discussion and the assignment. The discussion sections will reinforce and supplement the text reading.

My first suggestion is that you look through this entire manual, reviewing your assignments and mapping out a timeline for completion of the course. **Some assignments are much more involved than others**, so it will be important for you to develop a schedule.

As you begin each lesson, read the chapter in your textbook first and then read the discussion section in this manual. Most

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of the lessons include self-help questions or activities that will reinforce your text reading and allow you to check your comprehension of basic facts and skills. Use this manual as a workbook, highlighting interesting information, jotting down notes, and answering the self-help questions. Many of the self-help questions will be seen again on the final exam.

Written Assignments

The written assignments will give you an opportunity to demonstrate what you've learned. Your answers should indicate that you have thought critically about the issues discussed in the lessons, synthesized your ideas, and clearly communicated them.

Each assignment should be double-spaced on one side of the paper. It may be word-processed (using 12-point font), typed, or neatly handwritten. Proofread your assignments carefully; you will be graded on grammar and sentence structure as well as the content of your writing. More specific directions may accompany each assignment. Keep a copy of the work you submit.

Final Exam and Grading

Your grade is made up of 1,000 points. The assignments consist of 800 points, and the final exam is 200 points. The point total for each assignment is listed here and in each lesson.

<u>Lesson #</u>	<u>Point Total</u>
1	25
2	100
3	50
4	35
5	150
6	90
7	30
8	150
9	20
10	25
11	25
12	100
Final Exam	200
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,000</u>

Your final exam must be taken under supervision at an approved testing location. It will be a closed-book test consisting of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short-answer, and essay questions. It will cover information in the text and this manual. **You must pass the final exam in order to receive credit for the course.**

A Final Word

I am thrilled to have you in class and I hope you find the study of leisure fascinating. Have fun and study hard!