

CAPSTONE IN RECREATION AND LEISURE SERVICES
RCLS 490
Winter Quarter, 2022

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Chase
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Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Jostad
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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed.: 10:00am – Noon

Class: Section Lecture: 1:00 - 1:50 pm, Monday - Thursday (PC 108)
Required Text(s): All required texts will be provided via Canvas.
Suggested Text: APA Publication Manual / 6th Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is the designated capstone course for those students who are majoring in the Recreation and Leisure Services degree program within the Department of Wellness and Movement Sciences. As required by the university, an end-of-program assessment will be completed for each major. The course will focus on the major issues and challenges facing recreation professionals as they enter the field. Utilizing group problem solving techniques, a multi-media presentation, and a research paper, students will present and defend a position on an issue or develop and defend a solution to an existing problem in the profession. A major focus of the course is for students to demonstrate the ability to effectively use scholarly resources to develop a research paper and presentation, as well as to further develop their understanding of the group process as it relates to being a member of a team.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will develop a deeper understanding of the current issues and problems affecting the recreation and leisure profession.
2. The student will be able to analyze and apply, using current technology, information pertinent to the current issues in recreation.
3. The student will be able to discuss current issues and problems in the recreation and leisure services field with peers and professionals alike.
4. The student will be able to develop and deliver a professional presentation concerning a specific issue or problem facing the parks, recreation and leisure profession, utilizing current software and hardware.
5. The student will be able to work effectively as a member of a team in order to prepare and deliver a 25-minute presentation.

6. The student will be able to work effectively as a team member in the planning, implementation, and evaluation phases of a one-day conference event on campus.
7. The student will submit a professionally written research paper (according to class guidelines), including references on the designated topic.
8. The student will make thoughtful judgments about the nature and quality of work done during the course by completing self and peer evaluations

COAPRT/Program Learning Outcomes to be addressed in this class:

7.01a: Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate the following entry-level knowledge: a) the nature and scope of the relevant park, recreation, tourism or related professions and their associated industries;

7.01b: Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate the following entry-level knowledge: b) techniques and processes used by professionals and workers in these industries;

7.01c: Students graduating from the program shall demonstrate the following entry-level knowledge: c) the foundation of the profession in history, science and philosophy.

7.02: Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and evaluate services that facilitate targeted human experiences and that embrace personal and cultural dimensions of diversity.

7.03: Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management/administration in parks, recreation, tourism and/or related professions.

COURSE CONTENT:

Research topics will be decided by each respective group and will be presented to the instructors for approval. To the extent possible, no two groups will be allowed to utilize the same topic. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to complete all stages of the research process, from choosing a topic, to conducting research, to presenting the research, to writing it up in a professional paper, and finally to experiencing the peer review process.

A note on research topics:

Students will choose a capstone research topic that is going to carry the group through all phases of the assignment, and naturally lends itself to a pro and con stance. In other words, students will pick a topic that is somewhat controversial and is capable of engaging a reader, as well as an audience during the one-day conference.

An instructor **MUST** give written approval to all topics prior to beginning the research process. Failure to obtain said approval may result in the presentation and final paper not being accepted. Each group is required to submit a topic proposal that explains the overall topic that is being researched. Each group is also required to submit a written purpose statement, a position one thesis statement, and a position two thesis statement. Points will be deducted for not following these directions.

GRADING and EVALUATION:

Criteria for evaluation in this class include ordinary standards of good writing (clear expression; accurate punctuation, grammar, and spelling; well organized) and meeting specifications of individual assignments. Assignments must be handed in on or before announced deadlines. Assignments must be typed (12 point font) and double-spaced. All required assignments must be completed to earn a course grade of C+ or higher. Grades will be assigned according to normal university standards, (which includes an assumption of basic literacy in English).

RCLS Grade Scale			
Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	94 -100	C	74 - 75
A-	90 - 93	C-	70 - 73
B+	86 - 89	D+	66 - 69
B	84 - 85	D	64 - 65
B-	80 - 83	D-	60 - 63
C+	76 - 79	F	59 and below

The grading criteria are as follows:

Capstone Paper:

Topic Proposal	10 pts.
Purpose Statement and Pro/Con Thesis Statements	25 pts.
Annotated Paper Outline	50 pts.
Capstone Final Paper	<u>100 pts.</u>
	(185 pts.)

Capstone Presentation:

Capstone Presentation	100 pts.
Presentation Abstract	<u>25 pts.</u>
	(125 pts.)

Class Peer Review Activities:

Paper Peer Review	25 pts.
Presentation Peer Review	<u>25 pts.</u>
	(50 pts.)

Capstone Conference Planning Tasks

Assigned Planning Task	(25 pts.)
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Attendance:

(30 pts.)

Total: 415 points

ATTENDANCE: (30 pts.)

Attendance is a significant part of the grade in capstone - it is important to be in class. Students are allowed four (4) “free” absences (without the distinction between excused/unexcused) so use them wisely. After four absences (this also includes group meetings with the instructor), students will lose 50% of the attendance grade per absence, up to six (6) total absences. If a student misses more than six (6) days for any reason, he or she will need to retake the course. If a student is sick, injured, or is experiencing some kind of personal crisis, please contact one of the instructors as soon as possible.

ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET:

Rather than listing all of the requirements for each assignment in the syllabus, we have created an “Assignment Booklet”, which will be reviewed over the first few days of class. We recommend reading the assignment booklet thoroughly and regularly over the course of the quarter. Please do not assume what we are looking for in these assignments – read the class materials, ask questions, and seek clarification. The following items have been included in the assignment booklet:

1. Capstone Schedule & Assignment Due Dates
2. Capstone Paper Assignment
3. Topic Proposal
4. Capstone Purpose and Position One and Position Two Thesis Statements
5. Annotated Paper Outline
6. Capstone Paper Grading Rubric
7. Capstone Presentation Assignment
8. Capstone Presentation Abstract (for conference brochure)
9. Capstone Presentation Grading Rubric
10. Conference Planning Tasks

**For all assignments, please submit to the Canvas page AND bring a hard copy to class!

CLASS PEER EVALUATION ACTIVITIES: (50 pts.)

Students are required to rate the performance of their group members during several phases of the class. When rating the performance of peers, be honest and base scores on measurable and objective standards. The following activities will include a peer review process:

- Paper peer review: (25 pts.)
- Presentation peer review: (25 pts.)

SPECIAL NOTE:

The group peer review process is an important aspect of the capstone experience and one that should be taken seriously. Our hope is that each team will work well together by equally sharing all of the course requirements. It is up to each team to discuss (early in the quarter) who will do what and when the work is due. Please do not fall into the trap of

having one or two group members do all of the work; otherwise, hard feelings are sure to follow. A low group peer evaluation can impact a student's final grade.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

It is a violation of the Eastern Washington University Student Conduct Code to represent the work of others as your own (plagiarism), fabricate research data, and/or to cheat on exams. Such acts of academic dishonesty can result in failure of the course and be subject to disciplinary action from the University. If you have any questions about academic integrity, please be sure to contact the instructor or read the EWU Academic Integrity Policy, which is located on the EWU web site.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class, contact the Disabilities Support Services Office for assistance. The office is located in Tawanka 121; students are welcome to stop by or phone 509-359-6871. Please also connect with one of the class instructors so we are aware of individual student needs and accommodations.

COVID PROTOCOLS:

COVID-19 Safety Protocols: Everyone is required to wear a face mask while attending this course. EWU requires all persons to wear masks while attending in-person activities for this course. Students who fail to abide by this safety protocol will be reminded of the protocol and asked to comply. If a student continues to not comply, the instructor may ask the student to leave the learning environment on an emergency basis due to the threat to others' health and safety. The student will not be allowed back in the learning environment until the student meets the safety protocols. This absence may impact the student's grade and will be counted as an unexcused absence. The student may also be referred to Student Rights & Responsibilities for failure to comply with EWU Policy 602-02 (Immunization) and the Governor's and university directives. If a student is not able to comply with the face mask protocol due to medical or disability-related reasons, they should immediately contact Student Accommodations and Support Services and request an accommodation.

Although this course is being offered in person, the university reserves the right to modify the method of delivering the course for health and safety reasons.