

**RPTS 601 (SECTION 600)**  
**INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF RECREATION AND LEISURE CONCEPTS**  
**FALL 2010**  
**MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY**  
**4:10-5:25 PM**  
**ROOM 109 AGLS BUILDING**

Instructor: David Scott, Professor

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 AM - Noon (or by appointment)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of the history and philosophical foundations of recreation, parks, natural resource preservation, and tourism. The course will examine leisure in contemporary society, leisure ideals and values, the emergence of free time, the history and philosophy of recreation and parks, preservation and conservation, and tourism, and policy implications.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. We will understand basic concepts related to leisure, recreation, and tourism.
2. We will understand how "free time" evolved and what scholars believe about free time in modern societies.
3. We will understand how different scholars have defined leisure values and social needs and how these beliefs impact the delivery of recreation, park and tourism services.
4. We will understand the historical and philosophical foundations of the recreation and parks movement, the conservation movement, and modern tourism.
5. We will understand what leaders (visionaries) shaped the recreation, park, preservation and conservation, and tourism movements.
6. We will, individually, build a philosophical foundation for our own ideas about leisure values and the delivery of leisure and tourism services.

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

My approach in this course is to emphasize self-motivated and cooperative learning. The course will be conducted as a seminar with mutual exchange and defense of ideas. While I will do some lecturing, I see my role, primarily, to serve as a facilitator.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading and Discussion (20%). You are expected to read assignments before class meetings and be prepared to discuss materials. While reading, evaluate articles in terms of (a) major points, (b) strengths and weaknesses, and (c) implications for everyday life, research, and service delivery. Discussion questions will be distributed that will assist you in preparing for class.
2. Oral and Written Book Reviews (40%). Each student will write two book reviews and present their reviews in class. A list of possible book reviews is provided along with the RPTS 601 links. You may choose a book not among the ones listed. In either case, all books must be first approved by the instructor at least one week before the report is due. Each book review should include the following: (a) major themes or points of the book (50%); (b) a discussion of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the work (35%); and (c) a brief summary of the book's contribution to your field of interest (15%). The first book review will be due on **Wednesday, September 28**. The second book review will be due on **Monday, November 29**.
3. Oral and Written Visionary Report (20%). Each student will also write and present one report on a visionary (leader) related to his or her field of interest. A list of possible visionaries is provided with the RPTS 601 links. As with the book review, you may choose a leader not among the ones listed. All visionary reports must be approved at least one week before the report is due. The visionary report should include the following: (a) biographical information about the individual (20%); (b) major contributions to his/her particular field (50%); and (c) philosophy and beliefs about recreation, natural resources, tourism, etc (30%). The visionary report will be due on **Wednesday, November 9**.

All oral reports will be approximately 4 minutes in length. This will be adjusted depending on the number of students enrolled. Do not simply read the report. Use audio-visual aids (e.g., overheads, power point, etc.) sparingly. The written reports should be 7 or 8 pages each (no more or no less), doubled spaced and typed using a 12 point font, appropriately referenced, and clearly printed.

4. Final exam (20%). One exam will be administered during final's week: Tuesday, December 13, 3:30-5:30 PM. **Please bring a blue book.**

## **RE-GRADING POLICY**

All written reports and may be resubmitted for a re-grading. By doing so, you may improve your initial grade by one full letter. All re-submissions must be turned in no later than four class periods from when I return the paper to you.

## **REQUIRED READING**

1. Nash, R. (2001). *Wilderness and the American mind* (4th ed.). New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

2. Other readings will be posted online on the course outline and tentative calendar of activity (see RPTS 601 links).

### **RPTS 601 LINKS**

The course website includes a calendar of activity, which will provide you access to course readings and discussion questions. The course website also includes a list of book review selections and a list of visionaries.

### **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

If you need accommodations in this class related to a disability, please make an appointment with me to discuss this as soon as possible. Texas A&M University provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to students with disabilities who otherwise meet academic requirements of the institution.

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Consistent with Texas A&M University Regulations, scholastic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism and acquiring information from unauthorized sources) could result in your being given an F in the course.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. This includes (but not limited to) information collected from the World Wide Web, readings in course packets, and various in-class handouts. Plagiarism destroys *trust* among colleagues, students and faculty, thereby undermining free communication of ideas.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty." Here is a website:

<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule20.htm>