

Geo 321: National Parks and Conservation

Spring 2006

Dr. L. M. Dilsaver

Office: LSCB 133

Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00, T & Th 12:30-2:00

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Course Goal: Students will learn why the United States protects public lands, how different agencies manage their lands, and how laws, agency policy and public input shape resource planning and wilderness management in the national park system.

Required materials: *Our National Parks and the Search for Sustainability* by Bob R. O'Brien plus handouts provided by the instructor.

Dates	Tentative Topic
Jan. 10-12	Introduction; Conservation v. Preservation
17-19	Hetch Hetchy; US Forest Service
24-26	BLM and US Fish & Wildlife; Laws Affecting All Public Lands;
Feb. 31-2	History of the National Park System; Creating New Parks
7-9	Representation in the System; International Designations*
14-16	Land Acquisition and Inholdings; External Threats
21-23	Natural Resource Management; Midterm
Mar. 28-2	Mardi Gras ; Fire Management*
7-9	Cultural Resource Management
14-16	Spring Break
21-23	Use vs. Preservation
28-30	Overuse and Crowding*
Apr. 4-6	Yosemite Valley; Field Trip
11-13	Wilderness Management; Student Presentations
18-20	Student Presentations
25-27	Student Presentations*
May. 2	Final Exam , 1:00pm-3:00pm

* Dates segments of the term paper are due.

Grade: The final grade will be computed from four measures totaling 400 points. A midterm and a final exam will be worth 100 points each. A paper on a national park will be broken down into four 3-page segments that will count for 140 points. Finally, an oral presentation on the park you have chosen will count 60 points. The final grades will be assigned as follows: 360-400=A, 320-359=B, 280-319=C, 240-279=D, and 239 or lower=F.

Midterm Makeup: The only time to take the makeup for the midterm is Monday, April 3, at 2:00pm in LSCB 133.

Attendance: For most of the class meetings it is your business whether you attend. However, for the days when students are presenting their oral reports you will be docked 10 points for each absence without a legitimate excuse and 5 points for showing up during a presentation. Please come to class on time and prepared for a 75-minute meeting.

Written and Oral Assignments: See attached pages.

Field Trip: An optional field trip to Cumberland Island National Seashore will take place during the days of April 6-9. The Department of Earth Sciences will provide land transportation and defray some expenses. Students will be responsible for other costs. There is no credit for going on the trip and no penalty for missing it except for those who sign up and then don't show up on the morning of April 6. Those persons will be penalized 25 points. More information will be forthcoming.

Note: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me, the instructor, and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Service). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, and the phone number is (251) 460-7212.

Further Note: This syllabus is a tentative one. The instructor may make changes with two days notice to the students.