RECR 300: Leisure Science
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION
Department of Recreation & Parks Management

Dr. Richard Gitelson

Spring 2011
Office: Yolo 184   898-5762
Section 1/2 T/TH 12:30 to 1:45
Section 3/4 T/TH 2:00 to 3:15
Office hrs: Mon 2:30 to 3:30
Tue 3:30 to 5:00
Wed 1:30 to 3:00
Or by appointment

Prerequisites (Must be met to stay in class): RECR 200; one from RECR 220, 240, 250, or 260; and Computer Literacy (RECR 201 or equivalent)
This class is required for Recreation Majors, therefore Recreation Majors and graduating seniors will be given priority for enrollment.

IF YOU NEED TO EMAIL ME, SEND IT TO rgitelson@csuchico.edu
DO NOT SEND ANY EMAILS TO ME VIA BLACKBOARD (WEBCT) VISTA.

Course Syllabus

When students struggle with this course, one of the most frequent comments they make is that they wish they had thoroughly read the class syllabus. My recommendation: READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applications of science in Recreation and Parks Management, including needs assessment and evaluation methods. Interpretation of research literature. Use of computers for data base management and analysis.

COURSE APPROACH

The class will focus on the use of research and scientific methods to enable you to make better decisions in professional practice. Competency in these skills and methods should set graduating students apart from other entry level professionals. Lectures will focus on the concepts and issues related to conduct research in professional practice as well as the identification of useful applications. This class will not just present information; it will teach you skills that you can use in making better decisions.

Part II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENTS

Depending on time constraints, students will be able to demonstrate skill and understanding in the following areas:
1. The role and importance of research, needs assessment, and marketing analysis in professional practice (COA 8.17),
2. The terminology, concepts, professionalism and ethics in research (COA 8.17, 8.07),
3. The application of both original and existing research and literature for program, service, and resource analysis, needs assessment, and evaluation and decision making in professional practice (COA 8.17, 8.14:01),
4. Establishment of goals and objectives for research through the development of research questions and desired procedural outcomes (COA 8.17, 8.14:02),
5. The necessity of following research procedures which support the validity and reliability of the results of the research (COA 8.17)
6. The range of qualitative and quantitative methods in practice for assessing social and behavioral phenomena (COA 8.17)
7. Techniques of data coding and manipulation (COA 8.17)
8. Qualitative and quantitative analyses (COA 8.17)
9. The importance of drawing accurate conclusions and making recommendations within the limitations of the methods of the research; ethical implications of using different research methods and the use of the results (COA 8.17)
10. Computer applications in social, marketing, and needs assessment research including word processing (MS Word), Statistical Analysis (Statcrunch), Presentation Graphics (Excel), and PowerPoint presentation (COA 8.17, 8.24)
11. The creation, organization, and documentation of research procedures through a technical report, and PowerPoint presentation (COA 8.17, 8.24).

REQUIRED TEXT
There is no required text for this course. The readings for this course will be in Blackboard or you will be provided with a link to the source on the WEB.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
Course grades will be based on the following requirements: Points
| Participation points | 250 |
| Content Exams (Two exams – 100 points each) | 200 |
| Executive summary of evaluation project | 100 |
| Research presentation of project | 50 |
| Total points | 600 |

Exams
There will be two exams during the semester. If you miss an exam, you may make it up during the time scheduled for the final exam. You can only make up one exam that you have missed at that time, unless you have approved absences for both missed exams. If you take both exams during the semester, you can choose to re-take one exam during the time scheduled for the final exam. The score you get on the re-take will replace the score you got on the exam you are replacing, regardless of whether it is higher or lower. This last option is only available if you took both exams during the semester.
Each content exam will cover roughly one-half of the course material. The second content exam is not cumulative.

If you took both exams and are satisfied with your grade, then you will not have to attend the Final Exam.

Assignments for class (check the assignment for directions and due dates)

The assignments for this course are posted in Blackboard in the Assignments tab. This is a very important part of the learning process for this course. There is an assignment for nearly every class and you will have to submit your assignment in Blackboard by a certain time to get credit for the assignment.

For full credit, assignments will be due by 11 PM (unless otherwise specified) the night before the class when we will discuss what is in the assignment. You will usually have up until 10 AM on the day we will discuss the assignment to turn it in for partial credit. Assignments in Vista will not be accepted after this time.

Unless otherwise specified, a hard copy of the assignment must be brought to class and handed in at the end of class. Your name must be at the top of the assignment with your section number (2-pt deduction if both not at top of assignment). Failure to turn in the hard copy for an assignment will result in a 3 ½-point deduction from the assignment grade.

Each assignment is worth 10 points (total of 210 points). Additional 40 points is for taking part in class when called on or volunteering when I ask for input, posting material in the group discussion when assigned to do that, and for not missing more than two classes (see attendance policy for making up for additional absences).

Bottom line: Do the assignments on time. Bring a hardcopy of the assignment to class.

How to study for exams

The questions in the assignments are your official study guide for the exams for the readings. Exams will also cover material that is covered in class. All material covered in class is considered relevant, thus, there will be no specific study guides to cover course material.

I do expect you to take good notes during class. Many students have felt they could just listen and would be able to remember the information we discuss. This does not seem to be a good strategy.
If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your classmates. If you are in class, or miss a class, you are encouraged to see me during office hours or make an appointment to meet with me to discuss any class notes or information from the readings that you are not sure about.

If you need help, I expect you to bring your notes from the reading, assignment or class with you when you ask for help.

Research project

Throughout the semester, you will be working on a research project. I will provide you with guidelines throughout the semester. Ultimately, you will write up a technical report and make a presentation to the class based on your findings.

How do you earn participation points?

You earn participation points in a number of ways.

1. First, I expect you to be prepared for each class. That means you have done any assigned reading(s) before the appropriate class, you have answered the study guide questions for the reading(s), and you have posted them to the appropriate place in Blackboard before the deadline for that assignment.

2. The questions and your answers to the study guide questions are due no later than 11 PM the night before the appropriate class. The questions and answers can be submitted for partial credit up until 10 AM on the day the reading is due to be discussed in class. One time during the semester, if there is a problem that keeps you from posting the answers in Vista, then you may send it to me at rgitelson@csuchico.edu as an attachment. It still must meet the deadline for that assignment. Points will be deducted for incomplete work. DO NOT USE THE MAIL FUNCTION IN BLACKBOARD (WEBCT) VISTA TO POST ASSIGNMENTS as you will not get credit for assignments posted there.

3. You must bring a hard copy of the assignment, with both the questions and answers to class (unless I indicate otherwise), with your name and section at the top of the first page. YOU WILL TURN IN THE HARDCOPY of your completed assignment AT THE END OF THE CLASS. There will be a 3 ½ -pt deduction from the assignment grade if the hard copy is not turned in on time.

   a. If you are absent from a class, you must show me the completed assignment at the beginning of the next class you attend.

   b. Having a hard copy will enable you to participate in class, write notes on your hard copy based on class discussion, and will help you prepare for the exams.
I suggest getting a small binder and putting your assignments in the binder.

4. Participation points may be deducted for using cell phones or other electronic devices without my approval or for any other activity that is not related to the class or which is considered disrespectful or disruptive to the class. Participation points may be deducted if you are not prepared or unwilling to take part in class activities.

5. Participation points will be deducted for not posting information in the discussion board as assigned.

Use of computers – computers are not allowed during class. For exceptions to this policy, please make an appointment to see me to discuss why you need to use a computer. Poor handwriting is not an acceptable reason.

It is important to respect other opinions in class, and to contribute to an appropriate learning environment. I have had students who have had great conversations during class, unfortunately, the conversations were not related to class and detracted from other student’s ability to follow what we were talking about. I reserve the right to deduct points from participation points for what I consider inappropriate behavior. If you have a question about class related topics, please ask me. I will do my best to provide an answer.

How will attendance affect my grade?

You are expected to attend each class. Class lasts for approximately 75 minutes. Each student is allowed two absences. For each class you miss after the first two absences, 5 points will be deducted from your final grade, unless you do an acceptable research critique (guidelines will be provided to you). A hard copy of the critique must be handed in during the next class you attend after the absence. Handing in a critique does not guarantee the 5 points as it will be evaluated based on the research critique criteria.

Remember that you do not have to do this for your first two absences. There are no excused or unexcused absences. You may do the journal article critique for up to three additional missed classes. Each additional absence after the first five absences (which represents two and a half weeks of the class) will result in a deduction of 5 points from your participation grade.

How grades are assigned.

Grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages (.5 to .9 is rounded to next highest number). The percentage is determined by dividing the points you have earned by the total available points.

- 92% - 100% = A
- 90% – 91% = A-
- 88% – 89% = B+
- 82 – 87% = B
80% – 81% = B-
78% – 79% = C+
72% – 77% = C
70 – 71% = C-
68% – 69% = D+
60% – 67% = D

BLACKBOARD (WEBCT) VISTA COURSE:
Some course material is only available on-line via BLACKBOARD WebCT VISTA.

Is spelling and grammar important in your assignments?

Your writing is a reflection of both your professionalism and the amount of respect you have for the person who will read what you write for this course (me). Every computer word program has a spell and grammar checker and I expect you to use this program. Poor grammar, incorrect formatting, and spelling mistakes can be avoided. Most spelling mistakes in assignments, extra credit efforts, papers, presentations, etc. will result in a one-point deduction. Errors such as using their for there, to for too, or diary for dairy will result in a one-half point deduction.

Grammar is a little trickier to evaluate. Incomplete sentences or run-on sentences will result in a one-point deduction. If I will take off for other grammatical mistakes, I will let you know ahead of time.

Writing Assistance

As a student in the Department of Recreation and Parks Management, you have multiple resources available to you to assist you in improving your writing skills. These include:

• The Recreation Department may staff a Writing Center to assist you with becoming a better writer. If so, the Center is usually open approximately 20 hours per week. The assistant in charge is both very skilled and very approachable. The assistant will work to help you be able to identify problems in your writing on your own. **If available, this should probably be your first stop for writing assistance.**

• The University also has a writing center. You can see someone in person by making an appointment. Their contact information is listed on their home page, and the link is [http://www.csuchico.edu/uwc/](http://www.csuchico.edu/uwc/).

• The University Writing Center also offers on-line assistance, which is especially useful for people with schedule conflicts. Information from the CSUC On-Line Writing Center is listed below.

What the University Writing Center does:
- Helps student writers plan and get started on writing
- Aids student writers in understanding and responding to writing assignments in any discipline, any course
- Talks with student writers about their ideas and helps develop them
- Assists student writers in developing proofreading and editing skills
- Helps student writers become more effective writers in the long term
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is an issue of serious concern. I expect you to maintain a high standard of academic integrity. All work submitted, i.e. assignments, exams, papers, extra credit efforts, etc., must represent original work done by you specifically for this course. Work done by others or for by you for other courses or other purposes will not be accepted for credit. Consequences can be severe when a student does not adhere to this guideline, ranging from failure in this course to expulsion from the University and denial of a degree. Consult the "Academic Honesty" portion of the University catalog (especially the section on "Plagiarism") for details.

UNIVERSITY ADD/DROP PROCEDURES

BE SURE TO CHECK THE LAST day to add or drop classes without special permission of the instructor and the department chair. Students will need a "serious and compelling" reason after this date (see the University catalog for details) and will have to use the Change of Program (COP) process. There will be NO adding or dropping of classes or changing of grade option after THIS DATE without a "serious and compelling" reason approved by the instructor, department chair, and college dean.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Students with special needs or concerns are invited to meet with the instructor early in the semester to discuss possible accommodation.
## Due Dates and time assignments are due

Date        | Class discussions and assignments (check Assignments in Vista) CHECK EACH CLASS FOR ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE DUE.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class and date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment and due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (1/25)</td>
<td>Intro to course</td>
<td>No assignment due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (1/27)</td>
<td>Why course important</td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due 1/26 by 11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (2/1)</td>
<td>Inquiry and the research process</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Due 1/31 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (2/3)</td>
<td>Language of research</td>
<td>Assignment 3 Due 2/2 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 (2/8)</td>
<td>Steps in research process</td>
<td>Assignment 4 Due 2/7 by 11 PM</td>
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<td>6 (2/10)</td>
<td>Information searches - Meet in Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (2/15)</td>
<td>Personal interviews</td>
<td>Assignment 5 Due 2/14 by 11 PM</td>
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<td>8 (2/17)</td>
<td>Focus groups</td>
<td>Assignment 6 Due 2/16 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (2/22)</td>
<td>Research questions</td>
<td>Assignment 7 Due 2/21 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 (2/24)</td>
<td>Qualitative research</td>
<td>Assignment 8 Due 2/23 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 (3/1)</td>
<td>Designing a survey</td>
<td>Assignment 9 Due 2/28 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 (3/3)</td>
<td>Designing questions</td>
<td>Assignment 10 Due 3/2 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (3/8)</td>
<td>Designing questions</td>
<td>Assignment 11 Due 3/7 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 (3/10)</td>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>No assignment due</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 (3/24)</td>
<td>I/P Analysis</td>
<td>Assignment 13 Due 3/23 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 (3/29)</td>
<td>Creating the codebook</td>
<td>Assignment 14 Due 3/28 by 11 PM</td>
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<td>18 (4/5)</td>
<td>On-line surveys</td>
<td>Assignment 15 Due 4/4 by 11 PM</td>
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<td>19 (4/7)</td>
<td>Paper instructions</td>
<td>Assignment 16 Due 4/6 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 (4/12)</td>
<td>Analyzing data</td>
<td>Assignment 17 Due 4/11 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 (4/14)</td>
<td>Analyzing data</td>
<td>Assignment 18 Due 4/13 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 (4/19)</td>
<td>Preparing a Powerpoint</td>
<td>Assignment 19 Due 4/18 by 11 PM</td>
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<td>23 (4/21)</td>
<td>Sampling – part 1</td>
<td>Assignment 20 Due 4/20 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 (4/26)</td>
<td>Sampling – part 2</td>
<td>Assignment 21 Due 4/25 by 11 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 (4/28)</td>
<td>Reliability and validity</td>
<td>No assignment due</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 (5/3)</td>
<td>Second exam</td>
<td>No assignment due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 27 (5/5) | Presentations due | Presentation due 5/4 by 11 PM  
Paper due 5/8 Sunday by 11 PM  
(5/8) Paper due at 11 PM  
This is a Sunday night. 10% deduction for each 24 hour period it is late.  
28 (5/10) | Presentations | No assignment |
| 29 (5/12) | Presentations | No assignment |
| May 17 | Make up final or re-take final | 2:00 to 3:50 |
| May 19 | Make up final or re-take final | 12:00 to 1:50 |