

GEOG 4350 Parks and Protected Areas Planning and Management

Course Syllabus - Banff 2024 Summer Session

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Goal: To provide students with an understanding of the conceptual basis of parks and protected areas, the history and evolution of national parks, and the development of park management strategies. Students will be provided with the opportunity to examine a current park management issue in detail and participate in a research project during the field component of the course.

Timetable: May 1 Classroom component and field planning Room Wallace TBD
May 26-June 7 - Field component full schedule TBA

Note: During the field component students will be engaged in field seminars, lectures, research participation for 8 to 12 hours each day.

Textbook:

Banff National Park Management Plan

<https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/info/gestion-management/involved/plan/plan-2022>

Dearden, P, Rollins, R and Needham, M., 2015, *Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Planning and Management (4th Ed.)*, Oxford University Press, Toronto. Optional

Format: Field seminars to be delivered by Parks Canada staff and researchers working in the parks throughout the two weeks. Multiple field visits to sites reflecting the theme of sustainable transportation. Students will undertake survey research on the temporary closure of the Bow Valley Parkway to motorized vehicles and the experience of visitors at Johnston's Canyon. The main product students will produce will be a research projects report presented to Banff National Park as identified below.

NB. All course information is available through the University of Manitoba UMLearn
You **must** register and access the site for important course updates.

Evaluation: Participation 20 marks; Journal 20 marks, Major Research Paper/Project 60 marks.

Participation 20%: Participation marks will be based upon your participation in the research project and your engagement in the presentations by Parks Canada Staff and others. Engagement refers to your interaction with presenters and classmates as exemplified by questions, comments, and discussion. As much as possible you should attempt to synthesize and criticize ideas (in a positive manner) in your participation. In addition, participation will be judged on your contribution to the research process and facilitation thereof.

Participation marks will also be based upon your "expedition behavior" while in the field. "Expedition behavior" refers to your interaction with other students, the leaders, and presenters. Put simply, good expedition behavior enhances the experience for yourself and others, while bad expedition behavior lessens the experience. Examples of bad expedition behavior include always being late for "wheels roll", using food equipment etc. without owner's permission, rolling rocks downhill on other hikers, "sea-Lawyerling", continuous whining about the weather, etc.

Note: You start with an assumed 20 participation marks, all of which can be lost for bad expedition behavior or not participating.

NOTE: Failure to abide by Park and Campground rules (e.g. food in O'tentik, garbage left out, no loud noises or alcohol after 11:00 p.m., etc.) will result in a zero grade for participation and possible expulsion from the class. This would mean you have to find your way back home.

Journal (20). At the conclusion of the field seminars students will be expected to hand in a journal of their field experience. Make note of your reaction to the topics and ideas presented during the day, the progress of the research and any ideas you have regarding how various concepts are linked. **Marks** will be given for accurate reflection of the presentations and for evidence of **synthesizing** ideas and **incorporating tangential** information. **Due June 17.**

Final Research Project: (60-10/50) This year BNP has asked us to conduct a study of the visitor experience at the Johnson Canyon Day Use Area. As part of the study, you will have to deliver a preliminary **oral report** to BNP staff on Thursday June 6th. The oral report will be worth **10%** of the total course grade. The final **research report** will be worth **50%** of the final course grade and be due by midnight on Sunday July 14 (email).

The group research report should outline the nature of the problem/issue you are researching, the background and relation to the Park Management Plan and your recommendations to the park. You should include a 1-2 page **executive summary** that summarizes your findings.

Scholarship will be graded in the following manner:

Appreciation of the significance of the subject *	- 05
Contents/evidence: support of generalizations by detail	- 10
Measures of critical scholarship	- 20
Form, structure, and grammar	- 5
Presentation and Scholarly Apparatus	- 10

* see Marking Rubric for explanation

Presentation to Parks Canada (10) On Thursday June 8 the group will present the preliminary results of their research to Parks Canada staff.

Your research report should trace the development of the problem, management approaches taken, and alternative remedial measures available. Originality is always appreciated. You should attempt to connect the problem and its solution to both theory and practice, and note any relevant legislation, policy, and regulations. Where possible you should identify any international experience with similar problems and how they were resolved.

Safety: You will be involved in field research that may be of a vigorous nature. If you are not currently in good physical condition, I suggest you use the next four weeks to prepare a base of fitness.

Initially we will be e-biking to Johnson Canyon (50km return). Also note that starting elevation for most of the hikes is 1600m and you may have to ascend another 500m. Winnipeg is only at 239m so you will notice that you become winded more easily.

Where there is the possibility of bears in the area you will need to travel in groups of 4 or more in a tight group. Carry bear spray at all times.

Due to the length of some of the trails it is extremely important that you let others know when and where you are at all times. Make a plan to return and report back and stick to it.

General Outline of Field Seminars

Note: over the course of the next 2 weeks Parks Canada will be providing presentations on a number of topics (Wildlife conservation projects, working with Indigenous groups, Tourism and Human use management, Cave and Basin, Banff Park Museum). Generally these presentations will occur in 2 hour blocks so that time remains for research. **This schedule is subject to change at any time.**

Day 0 Sunday	Arrival in Banff, setup of camp – O’Tentiks
Day 1 Monday	A typical tourist day in BNP. Sulphur Mountain Gondola, Lake Louise, Spiral Tunnels, Lake Minnewanka, Cascade Ponds.
Day 2 Tuesday	Meet with PCA Visitor Experience staff at JCDUA (Tina Barzo, Eric Baron, Daniella Rubeling) Begin research BVP
Day 3 Wednesday	Research and PCA
Day 4 Thursday	Research and presentation / Morning - Cliff White – Mountain ecology and the re-introduction of the Bison
Day 5 Friday	Morning -Town of Banff / Afternoon - Research
Day 6 Saturday	Research
Day 7	Sunday - Will evolve as research progresses. Possible free day to explore
Day 6 Monday	Research- Presentation Cave and Basin
Day 7 Tuesday	Presentation and Field excursion
Day 8 Wednesday	Stanley Glacier and Kootenay if time permits
Day 9 Thursday	Presentation of preliminary results to Parks Canada and potluck

Day 10 Friday

Final quiz - debrief and pack up to drive home

