

# ***GEOG 200 - Environmental Issues in National Parks - Fall 2023***

Instructor: Seth T. Kannarr

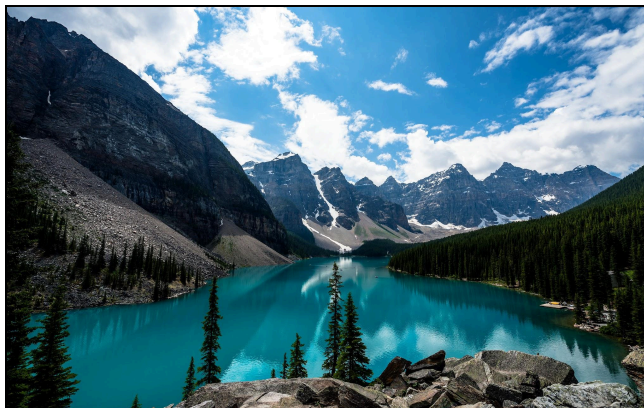
Classroom: BGB 101

Classtime: MWF at 12:40 AM - 1:30 PM

Email: skannarr@vols.utk.edu

Office: WAB F335 or on Zoom

Office Hour: Available by Appt.



UT Course Description: Major environmental issues faced by national parks and other protected areas in the U.S. and abroad, including invasive species, changes in fire regimes, water and air pollution, visitor impacts, and climate change. Focus on interactions between physical and biological processes and human activities.

Extra Notes: This course fulfills a General Education or Volunteer Core Requirement for a Natural Science Non-Lab course. This class is designed to encourage an active learning environment. Please attend every class and be prepared to participate. You will learn a lot about protected areas and how to think like a geographer.

Canvas Etiquette: Please ensure that you have push notifications turned on for this Canvas course. I will provide weekly Canvas Announcements full of reminders and information, and it is your responsibility to pay attention to these in case of schedule changes or critical bulletin notes. Perhaps hints or Easter eggs too!

Email Etiquette: When sending an email, please include the course number (GEOG 200) in the subject line and allow me up to two business days (24-48 hours, M-F) to respond to your email. After that, you are welcome to send a kind follow-up email to remind me if I have not gotten back to you yet. Please and thanks!

Late Work Policy: 20% off on the first two days, 40% off in the next week. 0% credit after.

Absence Policy: Send me an email if you cannot attend a class session in advance of its scheduled time. Documentation is required for any formal 'Excused' request, such as medical appointments or athletics events. Make sure any assignments or quizzes are completed as per this Syllabus. Lean on peers for sharing notes from lectures missed. It is your responsibility to be accountable with your attendance and work.

Quizzes and Final Exam: Quizzes will happen in-person and generally consist of 10 multiple-choice or completion questions and 2 short-answer questions over 25+ minutes, pending individual accommodations. The Final Exam will consist of multiple-choice, matching, and short-answer questions, with a time window of 50+ minutes in-person. Do not try to cheat, it will not end well - please follow UT's academic honesty rules.

Lectures	Assignments	Quizzes	Final Exam	Course Total
60 Points*	6 x 10 Points	6 x 20 Points	60 Points	300 Points
<b>Grade Scale:</b> A 279+, A- 270, B+ 258, B 240, C+ 228, C 210, D+ 198, D 180, F 179-				

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<b>TENTATIVE SEMESTER OVERVIEW</b>			
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 8/21-25	<b>NO CLASS</b>	Lecture: <i>Welcome &amp; Syllabus</i>	Lecture: <i>Geography Basics</i>
<b>Week 2</b> 8/28-1	Lecture: <i>Protected Areas At Large</i>	Lecture: US NPS Overview	Quiz 1
<b>Week 3</b> 9/4-8	<b>NO CLASS - Labor Day</b>	Lecture: Ecology 101	Assignment 1 - NPS Ranger Chat (In-Class Handout)
<b>Week 4</b> 9/11-15	Lecture: Invasive Species	Lecture: Case Study on Everglades NP	Quiz 2
<b>Week 5</b> 9/18-22	Lecture: Diseases and Pests	Lecture: Case Study on Mammoth Cave NP	Assignment 2 - Give a NP Tour! (09/22 @ 5:59 PM)
<b>Week 6</b> 9/25-29	Lecture: Wildlife Management	Lecture: Case Study on Isle Royale NP	Quiz 3
<b>Week 7</b> 10/2-6	Lecture: Visitor Management	Lecture: Case Study on Katmai NP	Assignment 3 - Journal Articles (10/5 @ 11:59 PM)
<b>Week 8</b> 10/9-13	<b>NO CLASS - Fall Break</b>	Film: <i>America's Best Idea by Ken Burns</i>	Field Trip: Meet at GSMNP (Extra Credit)
<b>Week 9</b> 10/16-20	Lecture: Fire Regimes	Lecture: Case Study on Sequoia NP	Quiz 4
<b>Week 10</b> 10/23-27	Lecture: Air & Sound Quality	Lecture: Case Study on Hawaii Volcanoes NP	Assignment 4 - StoryMaps (10/26 @ 11:59 PM)
<b>Week 11</b> 10/30-3	Lecture: Light Pollution	Lecture: Case Study on Bryce Canyon NP	Quiz 5
<b>Week 12</b> 11/6-10	Lecture: Water Resources	Lecture: Case Study on Grand Canyon NP	Assignment 5 - Plan a Vacation! (11/9 @ 11:59 PM)
<b>Week 13</b> 11/13-17	Lecture: Climate Change	Lecture: Case Study on Glacier NP	Quiz 6
<b>Week 14</b> 11/20-24	<b>NO CLASS - SEDAAG</b>	<b>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break!</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> 11/27-1	Lecture: Student's Choice 1	Lecture: Student's Choice 2	<b>NO CLASS - Study for Finals</b>
<b>Week 16</b> 12/4-8	Final Review & Evaluations	Final Exam	<b>NO CLASS - Winter Break!</b>
<i>Optional Field Trip to GSMNP - Fri. 10/13/23 - 15 Extra Credit Points, 5% of Course Grade!</i>			

*All details provided in this syllabus are subject to change upon direction of the instructor. If there is any information not provided in this syllabus, please consult the instructor for further guidance. All UT campus policies, procedures, and resources will be followed and utilized accordingly.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out! I am here to help! Visit my office, catch me in person, or shoot me an email, please don't be shy!*

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## ***Guiding Course Questions:***

- 1) What does it mean to think geographically, and how can geographic thinking help us to better understand environmental issues as applied to protected areas?
- 2) What benefits and potential drawbacks do the setting aside and designation of protected areas, like U.S. 'National Parks', provide for human society and the natural environment?
- 3) What key patterns, processes, and relationships are there between human society, wildlife, and the physical environment?
- 4) What are the most relevant ongoing environmental issues, and which 'National Parks' can serve as case studies that can help explain these issues in detail?
- 5) How can we navigate the complexity of finding and implementing solutions to these environmental issues in our 'National Parks' and across the globe?

## ***How to Be Successful in this Course:***

- A) Communicate clearly and often - I cannot help you if you do not tell me you need help!
- B) Be actively engaged in lectures and discussions - a wrong answer is better than no answer!
- C) Take notes during lectures and ask questions as you go, do not be afraid to speak up!
- D) Keep an open mind and be ready to be challenged with problem solving and reflection.
- E) Complete all activities and assignments thoroughly, and read all instructions carefully.
- F) To prepare for quizzes, review notes and use the study guide template provided below.
- G) Follow all policies and procedures set in this syllabus - you will be on your way to an 'A'!

## ***Quiz Study Guide Template:***

- I. Which environmental issues have been covered to this point?
  - A. Can you, on the fly, tell me about the environmental issue?
  - B. What are some examples of this environmental issue?
- II. Which 'National Parks' have we covered as case studies to this point?
  - A. What's the geographic context and location of this park?
  - B. What is this park well known for, what makes it unique?
- III. What are the case studies of environmental issues in 'National Parks' that we have covered?
  - A. What are the causes, effects, and issues at hand here?
  - B. What makes this issue or situation significant or complicated to discuss or solve?
- IV. What new key terms or fundamental concepts did we introduce?
  - A. Can you define and explain these terms and concepts with relevant examples?
  - B. What relationships are involved with these terms and concepts?
- V. What additional course assignments or relevant activities have we done recently?
  - A. How does this item relate to environmental issues and/or protected areas?
  - B. How can this item help you to think geographically?
- VI. Have you reflected on the conclusions from the lessons we have covered?
  - A. What are the big takeaways from each lesson?
  - B. What makes this all geographic? How can we view it with a spatial lens?
  - C. How do these environmental issues and 'National Parks' connect across the course?