Dear Students, Welcome to REC 103 Outdoor Recreation and the Natural Environment. I am your instructor, Rhonda Hyatt. This course is one of the electives for an AA in Recreation Management at COC. This course meets GE requirements under section E “Life Long Learning and Self Development”.

Important note: this is a short session online course. Three academic units of content will be condensed into a short 5 week period of time. Please note that the course will not be available until the first day of the winter session. Remember that you must log in and participate in the first Discussion or Blog on Jan 5th or be dropped as a no-show.

Course Description:

Examines recreation in the outdoor and natural environment including the emergence of outdoor recreation in the United States, the benefits attributed to outdoor experiences and recreation management policies and practices related to the natural environment.

Course Instructor:

Dr. Rhonda Hyatt
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Course Success:

You must be prepared to be actively engaged in this course on a daily basis for 2-3 hours per day to earn the optimal grade in the course. This course is primarily asynchronous. This means that you are not required to be present online at a set time. But there are strict weekly deadlines for the work. Communication will primarily occur via “threaded discussions”, blogs and emails.

You will interact with the course material through related readings, assignments, quizzes, internet challenges and participation in blogs or discussion boards. You will benefit from reading ahead; each week I will post the reading assignments for the following week. You must be prepared to participate in the blogs and discussion board items to achieve the ultimate grade in the course. You will find the quizzes and discussions boards easier and faster to complete by reading ahead.

EMAIL: It is very important to set up and use your mycanyons email account. I will communicate daily through the “announcement page” and email.
Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the current characteristics and trends in outdoor recreation including participation patterns, resource management and economic impacts.
2. Evaluate the various benefits of engagement in the natural environment and the theories supporting the outcomes.
3. Examine the historical roots of outdoor recreation and the pioneers who were important in the evolution of outdoor recreation.
4. Explain the interactions between humans and nature including; stewardship, land ethic, preservation, conservation and sustainability.
5. Evaluate the value of outdoor education and interpretation to outdoor recreation.
6. Evaluate the origins and current functions of federal and state agencies that manage outdoor recreation resources and programming.
7. Analyze outdoor recreation management practices employed to enhance the participants experience and manage impacts on the natural resources.

Course Materials:

Required Reading: This course section does not have a required text. The required reading will be variety of federal and state reports and articles accessed through the course or related links.

Reading Ahead: For those of you who would like to get a jump start on the course, the first reading assignment:

“2012 Outdoor Recreation Participation”


There course will be presented in weekly modules that include required reading assignments, a discussion or blog item, assignment and quiz. The work will assist you to integrate the information presented in the course materials and to stay track for successful course completion. All work will be due in the week it is assigned.

Discussion Board /Blogs: The use of the Discussion Board is integral to the success of the course. There will be weekly discussions and blogs. You must demonstrate you are familiar with the reading assignments, lectures and must communicate with your classmate. **You cannot successfully pass the course without participation in the discussions and blogs.**
**Assignments:** There will be multiple assignments including; Historical Review: research and present a historical period in outdoor recreation including one pioneer who impacted outdoor recreation. Research paper; summarizing and supporting the benefits associated with Outdoor Recreation. Resource Management Case Study; review a case study pertaining to an outdoor resource and present management recommendations.

**Quizzes:** All assessments will be submitted through Blackboard. There will be weekly quizzes related to lectures and reading materials. Quizzes can only be taken once and there is a time limit. It is important to adequately review the materials and read the articles to be successful at the quizzes.

**Final Project: California Outdoor Recreation Investigation:** Research and present a current issue impacting outdoor recreation in California. Student will develop a course presentation as well as reviewing and evaluating classmate’s presentations.

**Technology:** You are responsible for accessing the technology to be successful in this course. This means regular access to a computer and reliable internet browser. Blackboard prefers Firefox instead of Internet Explorer. You must be able to download articles and reports, including PDF’s, and must be able to attach documents in a format that can be opened by the instructor office computer.