

Common Course Outline

RECR 101/SSCI 101

Leisure in Society

3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Leisure in Society addresses the major concerns of leisure in American Culture. Leisure and its relationship to issues such as retirement and life planning, diversity and multiculturalism, the world of work, mental and physical health, the family, the economics of the nation, drug and alcohol abuse, and how human beings can create a sensible leisure ethic will be covered. The final personal philosophy paper will serve as a measure of curriculum program outcomes. Also offered as SSCI 101. 3 credits: 3 lecture hours per week. Prerequisite: Exemption from or successful completion of ACLT 052 or ACLT 053.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Define the term “leisure” both as a personal term and as a societal phenomenon;
2. Explain the significance of leisure to individuals, communities, society, and the world; Discuss critical concepts of leisure in the context of a multicultural, pluralistic society. These may be in the areas of the family, race, religion, ethnicity, aging, gender, lifestyle, social class, sexual orientation, addiction, work, crime, violence, poverty, capitalism, and commercialism;
3. Converse using terminology used in the study of the phenomenon of leisure;
4. Explain the reasons for the status of leisure in society today through the study of history in the form of significant historical figures and events, contemporary thinking and attitudes of past eras, and past religious beliefs;
5. Explain the results of evolving social, political, and economic changes on the free time behaviors of the American people;
6. Discuss the contributions of the fields of psychology, sociology, the arts, history, anthropology, business, economics, marketing, law, and science to the study of leisure in today’s society;
7. Evaluate American lifestyles and traditions based on moral and ethical considerations;
8. Recognize the need for the provision of positive leisure opportunities for all humans in society;
9. Forecast the impact of future leisure trends on American lives;
10. Identify and evaluate, through the use of a personal time study, actual available free time for personal leisure;
11. Critically evaluate leisure-related media information in the form of newspaper, magazine, and journal articles, television, radio, and other audio and visual media; and
12. Develop, write, and utilize a personal leisure philosophy.

Major Topics

- I. Contemporary Leisure – Awareness and Trends
- II. Benefits of Leisure to the Individual and Society
- III. History of Leisure in America
- IV. The Leisure Service System - major types
- V. Demographic Trends and Leisure – age, family, and socio-economic factors

- VI. Racial and ethnic influences on leisure
 - A. Multiculturalism, ethnicity, and leisure
 - B. Leisure involvement of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and white ethnics
- VII. Gender, sex, and alternative lifestyles
- VIII. Sports in contemporary life
 - A. Role of sports in American education
 - B. Violence and sports
- IX. Natural resources recreation, travel, & tourism
- X. Popular culture – the Arts, entertainment, TV, & hobbies
- XI. The Commodification of leisure – “He Who Dies with the Most Toys Wins!”
- XII. The shady side of leisure: morally marginal play
- XIII. Environmental concerns affecting leisure participation
- XIV. Trends and challenges facing the use of leisure in modern society

Course Requirements

1. Grading/exams/writing assignments: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:
2. Readings and exercises which may include items such as:
 - a. A one-week personal time study
 - b. Two personal interviews
 - c. One week leisure spending record keeping
 - d. Major shopping mall evaluation
 - e. Survey of a locality’s tourism services
 - f. A written inventory of all leisure opportunities in a specific area for one day
 - g. Reading, evaluating orally and in writing, and discussing in class selected contemporary articles twice throughout the semester
3. Two hourly examinations and one final exam
4. Participation in in-class discussion
5. Written paper on the student’s philosophy regarding leisure in her or his life.

Other Course Information

This course is a core course in the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Curriculum and is a General Education Diversity Elective in the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

This course is a prerequisite for most of the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Curriculum courses.

This course is also taught online.

This is a minimum course outline. Individual instructors have the right to add additional requirements.