



Faculty of Applied Health Sciences

Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

**Course Number:** RECL 4P35

**Term/Year/Duration:** Fall 2020

**Course Title:** Current Issues in Community Recreation

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**Instructor Name:** Kyle Rich

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**Phone Number:** 905-668-5550 x4269

**Liaison Librarian:** Elizabeth Yates (eyates@brocku.ca ~ 905-688-5550 x4469)

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#### **Times and Locations:**

Course lectures/activities will take place Tuesdays from 12:00pm to 3:00pm online. The course content will be delivered asynchronously (at your own pace), with synchronous meetings being working sessions where we will complete learning activities.

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#### **Course Calendar Description:**

Problem-based investigation into current issues that community recreation leaders confront in service delivery. Emphasis on building a foundation for problem-solving skills to facilitate informed ethical decisions.

#### **Additional Description:**

In this course, we will engage with “real world” problems faced by recreation professionals and critically discuss the social, ethical, and empirical aspects of decision making. Based around a series of case study assignments, learners will engage with decision making processes from the perspective of recreation professionals. Assessments will involve working with data and responding to scenarios with appropriate justification. Learners will be required to critically reflect on aspects of social change, contemporary social issues, and their own positionality throughout this process.

#### **Course Prerequisites:**

One of RECL 3M15, RECL 3M25, or RECL 2P25.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

This course is intended to achieve learning outcomes related to knowledge/comprehension, application, as well as synthesis/evaluation. The learning outcomes for each of these categories are as follows:

- **Knowledge and Comprehension**
  - Identify and discuss current trends and issues in community recreation, including how they are contextualized by social and cultural change.
  - Explain theoretically informed approaches to addressing contemporary issues in community recreation.
- **Application**
  - Apply selected theories to contemporary examples in order to examine decision making processes.
  - Demonstrate the research and writing skills required to collect, organize, and apply literature from several sources.
- **Synthesis and Evaluation**
  - Evaluate “real-world” issues and propose theoretically, empirically, and ethically sound strategies.
  - Create and respond to decision making scenarios which engage theoretical and empirical information.

## **Required Readings (available online):**

There is no required textbook for this course.

Note: All readings that are available through the library online (e.g., articles from academic journals) will not be posted to the course website. It is your responsibility to access these readings through the library website.

## **Course Communications:**

The primary method of communication for this course will be through Sakai. All general questions relating to course content and material should be directed to the discussion forums on this Sakai page. These forums will be monitored regularly by the instructor.

Should questions/concerns present themselves that cannot be resolved on the online forums, or are personal/individual in nature, please bring them to the instructor via the message tool. Please allow 48 hours for a response unless otherwise stated. Messages concerning issues that have been resolved on the online discussion forums or which have been addressed in the course outline will not receive a response.

Note that the phone number provided in this outline is not monitored daily and is therefore not an effective way to communicate on short notice. Phone conversations can be scheduled with the instructor upon request.

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**Evaluation Components and Due Dates**

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Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Date
Case Study 1	15%	October 9th
Case Study 2	15%	November 6th
Cast Study 3	15%	November 27th
Case study 4	15%	December 4th
Final Exam	40%	Tbd
Total	100%	

**Component Descriptions:**

Note: Additional assignment descriptions and assessment criteria will be posted to the course website. All case study assignments should be accompanied with a reflection (no longer than one page) serving to connect the work with course content/learning.

All assessments are due at 12:00pm (noon) on the date indicated above.

**Case Study Assessments** **15% each = 60% total**

Case study assessments will involve participating in synchronous discussions and then creating a written response to a case study problem. Learners will provide a theoretically and/or empirically informed response to a case study provided to them. The response should connect relevant literature to the problem presented and provide an actionable way forward for the hypothetical situation. Case study discussions will require learners to read texts provided to them in advance, participate in the discussion, and then link the case and empirical information provided, to theoretical literature. The submission should be accompanied with a reflection (no longer than one page) serving to connect the learner's work with course content/learning.

**Final Exam** **40%**

The final exam will be cumulative and build on the content covered throughout the course. Questions will be true/false, multiple choice, and short answer.

**Late Submission Policy:**

All assessment should be submitted through the Sakai Platform. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 20% per day (to a maximum of 100%), effective immediately following the time at which they are due unless accompanied by appropriate documentation.

See Medical Exemption Policy and the medical health certificate at <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

### **Relationship between attendance and grades:**

It is expected that learners attend all course meetings and participate in all online activities. Absences in course meetings will not be made up through personal communication with the instructor. Should learners arrive late to a session, please enter in a way that is respectful of others who may already be engaging with the course material. Students are expected to attend all classes and must complete all assignments in order to pass this course. Any foreseeable absences, requests for extensions, etc. should be discussed with the instructor at least **two weeks** prior to the deadline/date. Failure to do this may result in a deduction of marks accordingly.

### **Technology:**

Access to a reliable internet connection and a device on which to access course meetings and material is required for this course. During all meetings, please mute your microphone unless you are speaking and please turn all devices to “Silent” (not vibrate), and refrain from engaging with media (e.g., Facebook, twitter, videos, etc.) that may be distracting to others.

### **Positive Space:**

In this course, we will strive to create an environment that fosters creative thinking and values diverse opinions and perspectives. Therefore, as a group we will be committed to created a positive space for learning. While we may engage with sensitive topics or issues, we will do so in a respectful manner. Throughout this process, we will encourage each other to share and express our opinions, while at the same time offering suggestions on how to do so in a respectful and positive way, which also values the opinions and perspectives of others. The instructor will make every attempt to provide ample time to engage with all topics with adequate time to explore and debrief all discussions. Should a participant feel uncomfortable or unsafe in any course activity, please notify the instructor immediately.

### **Important dates:**

**November 2, 2020** is the date for withdrawal from the course without academic penalty.

**October 26, 2020** is the date you will be notified of 15% of your course grade.

**October 13-16, 2020** is the scheduled reading week.

**December 9, 2020** are set aside as a makeup day due to holidays, inclement weather, etc. Should any course meetings be cancelled, all content scheduled for that date will be shifted to the makeup date.

For additional dates, see the online University calendar at <http://brocku.ca/webcal/>

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## Academic Policies

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### Academic Integrity:

Academic misconduct is a serious offence. The principle of academic integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic misconduct. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Webpage: <https://brocku.ca/applied-health-sciences/teaching-learning/for-students/academic-integrity>

The following illustrates only four examples of academic dishonesty:

- i. Plagiarism; defined as presenting work done (in whole or part) by someone else as if it were one's own, or for which other credit has been obtained (e.g., using direct quotations or large sections of paraphrased material without acknowledgement).
- ii. Improper collaboration (e.g., copying from another student, or making information available to other students knowing that this is to be submitted as the borrower's own work).
- iii. Impersonation, copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
- iv. Obtaining medical or other certificates under false pretences.

Students should also consult Section VII, "Academic Misconduct", in the "Academic Regulations and University Policies" entry in the Undergraduate Calendar, available at <http://brocku.ca/webcal> to view a fuller description of prohibited actions, and the procedures and penalties.

### Plagiarism software:

Phrase-matching software ([turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)) may be used for assignments submitted for this course. Should you object to having your work uploaded to this service, please inform the instructor in writing to discuss alternative submissions.

### Intellectual Property Notice:

All slides, presentations, handouts, tests, exams, and other course materials created by the instructor in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. A student who publicly posts or sells an instructor's work, without the instructor's express consent, may be charged with misconduct under Brock's Academic Integrity Policy and/or Code of Conduct, and may also face adverse legal consequences for infringement of intellectual property rights.

### Academic Accommodation:

As part of Brock University's commitment to a respectful work and learning environment, the University will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all members of the university community with disabilities. If you require academic accommodations related to a documented disability to participate in this course, you are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services in the Student Development Centre (4th floor Schmon Tower, ex. 3240). You are also encouraged to discuss any accommodations with the instructor well in advance of due dates and scheduled assessments.

### **Academic Accommodation due to Religious Obligations:**

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the undergraduate and graduate communities such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements.

### **Medical Exemption Policy:**

The University requires that a student be medically examined in Health Services, or by an off-campus physician prior to an absence due to medical reasons from an exam, lab, test, quiz, seminar, assignment, etc. The Medical Certificate can be found at: <http://www.brocku.ca/health-services/policies/exemption>

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## **Resources**

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University can be both an exciting and challenging time in your life. While you are doing all you can to succeed, you may experience feeling overwhelmed or stressed. These feelings can happen for a number of reasons such as a lack of confidence in your abilities, the number of assignments due or personal/family issues. A way you can deal with these feelings is by learning different strategies to manage your stress. Luckily, there are services at Brock you can access to help you, even if you are not based on campus!

A-Z Learning Services offers a number of free workshops to help students succeed. These workshops include:

- Time Management
- Procrastination Busting
- Essay Writing
- Exam Preparation
- And many more!

You can register for workshops through A-Z Learning Services website (<https://brocku.ca/learning-services>) or on the Experience BU site.

Sometimes you may feel that you want or need extra support. If you feel this way, don't hesitate to contact Personal Counselling Services at <https://brocku.ca/personal-counselling>.

## Academic Writing and Library Information.

The library at Brock University provides a wealth of resources to support student research and writing. While basic information and instruction will be provided in the course, it is your responsibility to seek out the resources that are available to you in order to meet the expectations of the course. These resources may be particularly helpful in understanding different writing formats (e.g., literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, citations, etc.), citation and referencing styles/formats (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.), as well as spelling, grammar, and structure within your writing.

I highly suggest you explore the resources that are available to support your writing. Some of these resources can be found here: <https://brocku.ca/library/help-lib/writingandciting>

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### Sequence and Dates of Topics

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To be successful in this course, you are required to read and engage with the course materials for each section and lesson. Additional materials and activities may be added to support in-course activities. All additional materials will be added on Sakai at least one week in advance. Seminar activities should be prepared using the chapter from the course text as a starting point.

Section 1: Policy & Social Change	
<b>Topics:</b> Sport and recreation policy Social policy Social change	<b>Dates:</b> Sept 15- Synchronous Meeting Oct 6 - Synchronous Meeting (Case Study 1) Oct 9 - Case Study 1 Submission
Section 2: Current Issues	
<b>Topics:</b> Unions and the Labour Movement Truth and Reconciliation COVID-19	<b>Dates:</b> Nov 3 - Synchronous Meeting (Case Study 2) Nov 6 - Case Study 2 Submission
Section 3: Events	
<b>Topics:</b> Canada Games Event Leveraging	<b>Dates:</b> Nov 24 - Synchronous Meeting(Case Study 3) Nov 27 - Case study 3 Submission Dec 1 - Synchronous Meeting(Case Study 4) Dec 4 - Case Study 4 Submission Dec 8 - Synchronous Meeting (wrap up)