

LLC Syllabus
EXPLORING THE NATIONAL PARKS
Fall 2017

WHEN:

Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM at Temple Beth-El
September 13 to November 29. No class September 20 or November 22

COORDINATORS:

Bonita Daly—main contact person

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Marilyn Kaplan

Eddie Weinstein

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The history of the U.S. National Parks is the story of the beginning of the earth. It is the history of American lawmakers as far back as 1872 who had the vision to set aside land to preserve its beauty and wildlife for future generations. This course will explore the history and magnificence of the National Park system along with threats to the future of the parks.

We will take a field trip to the Roger Williams National Monument Park. We will also have two guest speakers. One guest speaker is a park ranger from the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park. The other is Kathy Hodge who, over several years, has been artist-in-residence at twelve national parks and wilderness areas. She will share her experiences and art with the class.

Class members will create a complete story of the past, present and future of their chosen parks, including the impact of factors such as resource exploitation, climate change, and the cost of conservation efforts.

RESOURCES:

[The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks](#), Terry Tempest Williams (available used on Amazon for \$12.89 and up).

Ken Burns PBS series *The National Parks, America's Best Idea* (available on YouTube, Amazon, DVDs at local libraries).

In preparing for class discussions, feel free to refer to other books and the world wide web. The coordinators have several books and resources which they will make available to class members.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS:

Each class member is encouraged to lead a one hour class discussion, but it is not required. For one or both hours of weeks three through seven, because of their significance to the national park system, we have designated specific parks for discussion. For the remaining time slots, the list of suggested parks included in this mailing was chosen from the [The Hour of Land](#) and to provide geographic and park variety. If you have a different park that you prefer to discuss, please let us know. We will attempt to include it in our schedule.

The presentation should include the history of the park, the highlights (wildlife, scenery, major attractions, etc.) and the threats to the park. You are encouraged to share your personal stories of national park experiences. From each discussion, the class should gain a greater appreciation of all aspects of the park and the threats to its continued enjoyment by the public. Please feel free to refer to additional resources.

As soon as possible, we would like you to select a park and date to lead the class discussion. Please email your selection of park and the date that you wish to present to Bonita Daly. Assignments will be made in the order they are received. You are welcome to present by yourself or in a team of two. (More than two gets too unwieldy.) Your presentation (whether individual or team) should be about 20 to 30 minutes in length, allowing time for questions and discussion.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Week 1--September 13:

- Introductions, course goals, what do you want from the course.
- Overview of the history of the National Parks. (to be presented by Edie Weinstein)
- The Hour of Land pp. 1-15

No Class September 20

Week 2—September 27:

- Field trip to Roger Williams Memorial Park, 282 North Main Street, Providence, —led by Park Ranger John McNiff

Week 3—October 4:

- 1:00 to 1:00—John Muir and Yosemite National Park
- Ken Burns National Parks 01 The Scripture Of Nature 1851 1890 Part 1 (Yosemite at 00:14:00 and Muir at 00:33:10-00:53:00 and 1:30:36 to end, approximate time stamps)

- 2:00 to 3:00—Yellowstone National Park
- Ken Burns National Parks 01 The Scripture Of Nature 1851 1890 Part 1(Yellowstone at 00:54:00-1:20:30)

- Ken Burns National Parks 02 The Last Refuge 1890 1915 Part 2 (Yellowstone at start of Part 2 and at 00:11:00-00:23:20 and 00:59:58-1:11:31 approximate time stamps)
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- The Hour of Land, pp. 43-81

Week 4—October 11

- 1:00 to 2:00—Guest Speaker-Kevin Klyberg, park ranger from Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park

- 2:00 to 3:00—Grand Canyon National Park

- Ken Burns National Parks 03 The Empire of Grandeur 1915 1919 (Grand Canyon 1:19:00 approximate time stamp)

Week 5—October 18

- 1:00 to 2:00—Gettysburg National Military Park
- The Hour of Land, pp. 109-153
- 2:00 to 3:00—Your choice of park from the list

Week 6—October 25:

- 1:00 to 2:00—Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi
- The Hour of Land, pp. 221-251
- 2:00 to 3:00—Your choice of park from the list

Week 7—November 1:

- 1:00 to 2:00---Guest speaker: Kathy Hodge, artist-in-residence at several national parks
- The Hour of Land, pp. 301-329, artists and the national parks
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- 2:00 to 3:00—Your choice of park from the list

Week 8—November 8

- 1:00 to 2:00—Your choice of park from the list
- 2:00 to 3:00—Your choice of park from the list

Week 9—November 15

- 1:00 to 2:00—Your choice of park from the list
- 2:00 to 3:00—Your choice of park from the list

No class November 22

Week 10—November 29

- 1:00 to 2:00—Your choice of park from the list
- 2:00 to 3:00—Summary—what are your impressions of the parks? Which parks are you most concerned about? What park would you like to visit next? Share thoughts and impressions.

Have fun and enjoy exploring the majesty of these national parks. They are all gems.

Suggested parks for presentations of your choice

From The Hour of Land

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming—p. 17

Big Bend National Park, Texas—p. 169

Gates of the Arctic National Park, Alaska—p. 201

Canyon Lands National Park, Utah—p. 253

Glacier National Park, Montana—p. 331

Additional major national parks (several of these are in the Ken Burns series)

Denali National Park, Alaska

Great Smokey Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee

Rocky Mountains National Park, Colorado

Everglades National Park, Florida

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Olympic National Park, Washington

Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky