

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
University of Oregon

Winter 2017

**Graduate Seminar: History and Theory of the National Parks**  
LA 610 | CRN 27112

Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 10:00am-noon

Professor Robert Z Melnick

[rzm@uoregon.edu](mailto:rzm@uoregon.edu)

Phone: x6-2193

Office: 381A Lawrence Hall



It has been argued that the national parks are one of this country's major contributions to international society and culture. Our parks have been a major source of American recreation, preservation and national pride, and they have been emulated in countries across the globe. The National Parks have a rich history, founded on the perceived value of public land for the public good. They now face an uncertain future, challenged by climate change, political pressures, and budgetary constraints, among other threats.

While the parks come in different forms, contexts, and missions, they are all available to the American public, within the broader context of our own societal issues, values, and confrontations.

This graduate seminar explores, in depth, some of the many issues that the parks have faced in the past, and that they face today, including historic events and trends as well as future projections. We will do this chronologically and thematically, exploring the ways in which the parks have changed along with American society.

**This seminar is open to graduate students only.**

Previous advanced coursework in landscape architecture, environmental studies, historic preservation, architectural history, historic geography, and/or related fields, will be beneficial but is not required.

**Requirements:** In addition to assigned readings, attendance and active seminar participation, each student will be required to produce an original research paper and lead a class discussion on his/her topic.