

MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

School of Education and Human Services

Department of Teacher Education

EDU 5900-XX- Yellowstone: The Last Frontier

(3 credits)

Spring 2026

Instructor: William Behrens

Email: wbehrens@freeportschools.org

Office hours: As Needed

Course Description:

Come explore America's true last frontier. Yellowstone's unique history, biological diversity and dynamic geologic processes has made it one of the world's most popular national parks. This course will focus on Yellowstone's history in America and those who contributed to its preservation as well as unraveling the delicate relationship the organisms share with the land. This course is for all teachers at all grade levels as Yellowstone's inspirational story can be applied across many curriculum areas.

***This course may be used as the first of three courses towards a certificate in XXX**

Shared Vision

The Molloy University Teacher Education faculty has derived its vision for the exemplary teacher from the University's mission statement, the four pillars of the Dominican tradition, comments and input from the Professional Education Unit's Advisory Board and degree candidates as well as numerous faculty discussions rooted in the department's knowledge base which undergirds the initial and advanced programs' curriculum, pedagogy, and values

The teaching professionals who complete Molloy's teacher preparation programs are distinguished by their ability to exemplify and promote core values in their own teaching. These values include:

Belief that all children can learn

Learner-centered and value-centered curriculum and pedagogy

Ethics and spirituality

Intellectual curiosity

Independence and risk taking, while promoting collective identity and responsibility

Diversity, multiculturalism and pluralism, including divergent thinking

Passion for teaching

Commitment to students and their communities

Civic responsibility through the promotion of social justice and interdependence

Commitment to democracy

Course Objectives:

1. Identify and describe the various biological and geological processes within Yellowstone National Park.
2. Create a timeline of historical events surrounding Yellowstone National Park.
3. Evaluate past and present wildlife management plans.
4. Describe the relationship between the abiotic and biotic factors within Yellowstone.
5. Design a content specialized lesson plan or unit that includes content from this course.

Course Format:

This course will be offered online through Canvas, Molloy's learning management system. The course will open two days before the start date and close one week after the last day of class. This section is offered by TBD. There will be daily activities and discussions that must be completed at the end of each day. Responses to the discussions will be due the following day by noon. An extra week will be allotted for the completion of the final project TBD..

Required Readings, Videos, and Other Materials:

All materials will be provided throughout the course.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Discussion # 1 Introduction (5pts)
Module 1 QuickFacts (8pts)
Module # 2 History (9pts)
Discussion # 2 Opening Thoughts “Misconceptions” (5pts)
Module # 3 Diversity of Life (8pts)
Module # 4 Life at the Brink “Adaptations of Survival” (8pts)
Discussion # 3 Keystone Species “Wolves” (5pts)
Module # 5 Invasive Species (8pts)
Module # 6 Forged in Fire (8pts)
Discussion # 4 Bucket List (5pts)
Module # 7 Unique Geology(8pts)
Module # 8 Future Yellowstone (8pts)
Final Project (15pts)

Molloy University and School of Education and Human Services Policies and Supports:

Expectations of Academic Integrity for All Students

[Honor Pledge and Academic Honesty Policy](#)

Course Withdrawals

View [Withdrawal Policy](#) for potential financial implications

View [the Academic Calendar](#) and/or the course syllabus for the last day to withdraw dates

Incompletes

[Incompletes Policy](#)

Health and Wellness

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Counseling Center \(SCC\)](#)

Center for Access and Disability (Access)

[Center for Access and Disability](#)

Technical Support

[Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#)

Ally for Canvas

[Supportive Tools and Resources/ Ally](#)

Use of Proctorio for Exams/Quizzes (if applicable)

[Proctorio Resources for Students](#)

Email Accounts

Students are to utilize their Molloy e-mail account or via Canvas when communicating throughout the semester. Those who use a non-Molloy account may miss important messages. Students are responsible for responding to all methods of communication in a timely fashion relating to this course. Instructors will respond to emails from students within 24 hours. When/ if you email the instructor(s), please indicate what course you are in with the course number and section.

APA Manuscript Style

All manuscripts in the field of education are written in the style format of the American Psychological Association. Candidates in the Graduate Education Programs are required to purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). (2010). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

All papers written in every course must adhere to the manuscript prescriptions defined in this manual.