

## **GEOG3306 Protected Areas and their Management (6 credits)**

**Course Teacher: Dr F Y Wong**

### **Objectives**

The course aims to provide students with an overall view on the classification, development, planning and management of protected areas. At the end of the course students would be able to make independent appraisal on the planning and management of different types of protected areas.

### **Course Synopsis**

Protected areas has become one of the important environmental measures to safeguard the biodiversity and natural environment of the world. There has been an international protected areas movement since the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. In Hong Kong, protected areas take the form of country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserves, restricted areas and Global Geoparks etc. The course introduces history and types of protected areas in a global context, emphasis will, however, be made to the protected areas in Hong Kong and China. It would assess values and benefits of protected areas; analysis criteria for designation, methods of planning and management. The major functions of protected areas in terms of recreation, conservation, tourism and education would be analyzed. Problems associated with protected areas such as development control, indigenous people, biodiversity conservation and intrusion of urban infrastructures into the countryside would be examined. Reference will be made to the IUCN guidelines and the best practice of protected areas management throughout the course. This course is designed for students who are interested in nature conservation, outdoor recreation and countryside education. It intends to provide students with basic concepts and techniques in the planning, management and protection of protected areas.

### **Lecture Topics**

- Protected areas: concepts; classification, values and functions;
- Criteria of designation: assessment methods;
- Planning of protected areas, master plans and thematic plans;
- Conservation of terrestrial and marine protected areas;
- Recreational use of protected areas and tourism management;
- Development and development control within protected areas;
- Provision of education and interpretation facilities;
- Appraisal and evaluation of protected areas;
- Examination of protected areas in China and other Asian countries.

### **Fieldwork**

Two field trips.

### **Assessment**

Examination (two hours) 50%; Coursework 50% (consists of one project/field trip report 30%; one essay 20%).

### **Learning Outcomes**

Knowledge:

- History, classification and functions of protected areas
- Designation criteria and planning principles of protected areas
- Techniques and tools in the management of protected areas
- Situation of protected areas in Hong Kong and some Asian countries.

Skills:

- Analytical ability to integrate information from different sources
- Field assessment and application of designation criteria
- Ability to write an independent project based on data collected in the field on protected areas
- Making independent appraisal on the planning and management of different types of protected areas

### **Recommended Reading List**

1. Graeme L. Worboys, Michael Lockwood, Terry De Lacy, (2005), *Protected Area Management Principles and Practice*, Oxford University Press.
2. Jim C.Y. & Richard T. Corlett (eds.) (2006) *Sustainable Management of Protected Areas for Future Generations*. IUCN/WCPA, Hong Kong: Cosmos Books Ltd.
3. Stuart Chape, Mark Spalding & Martin Jenkins, (2008), *The World's Protected Areas Status, Values and Prospects in the 21st Century*, UNEP-WCMC, London.
4. Trzyna, Ted. (ed.) (2005) *The Urban Imperative – Urban Outreach Strategies for Protected Area*, IUCN, California Institute of Public Affairs, Sacramento.
5. Trzyna, Ted. et al, (2014), *Urban Protected Areas: Profiles and Best Practice Guidelines*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 22, IUCN/WCPA.