Course Outline – NRRT525 Ski Area Planning and Development

Course Number: NRRT525
Course Title: Ski Area Planning and Development
Number of Credits: 2 credits
Semesters Offered: Spring
Prerequisites: NRRT520 Perspectives on Ski Area Management
Grading: Traditional

Course Description:

This course examines the various planning, design, and real estate considerations required for successful ski area development and expansion. While the development of new resorts is occurring in emerging ski regions around the world, such as West Asia, China, and Eastern Europe, the trend within the more mature skiing markets of North America and Europe, among others, is towards resort expansion and improvement. Thus, both base area and mountain design decisions for either new development or expansion are discussed in-depth. Project management principles and techniques are also examined within this course, as relevant to the ski resort industry. Additionally, as ski resorts exist on public, private, and even tribal lands around the world, attention is given to the importance of relationships with local, state, and federal land agencies, government bodies, and local mountain communities. These relationships are fundamental to the successful development and management of ski resorts.

Course Objectives:

- Identify and evaluate the various components of a master development plan
- Outline the various processes required for ski resort expansion and development on public and private lands
- Compare and contrast ski area planning and development challenges and issues faced around the world
- Discuss key considerations for base area and mountain design and development
- Apply project management principles and techniques to ski area planning and development
- Critically discuss the trend towards summer tourism development
• Identify and discuss the importance of managing stakeholder relationships
• Compare and contrast different strategies for community engagement and relationship-building
• Discuss the role and relationships between real estate and ski area operations