



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

THE GREAT AMERICAN BISON

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Pickering, Ph.D.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Robert B. Pickering is the founding director of the Museum Science and Management program at the University of Tulsa. In 1984, he received a Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology from Northwestern University after earning his BA and MA degrees in Anthropology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Pickering has served as an educator, curator, and administrator in major American museums over the last 30 years. Combined, these experiences give Pickering broad and deep knowledge of museum philosophy and practice. At each museum in which he served, Dr. Pickering has planned, promoted, and taught classes and programs for a broad spectrum of audiences. He is committed to public education and lifelong learning.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 1** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, comfortably, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, and ends on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 20, 2021.

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

The story of bison/human interaction is at least as old as the Ice Age cave paintings of Altamira in Spain and Chauvet in France. Even in those early times, bison sustained people with their gifts of meat and hide and connected them to a supernatural world. These themes of sustenance and spirituality were established when humans came to the Americas. The human bonds with buffalo—both economic and spiritual—pervaded the ancient worlds of America and the Eurasian steppes. In North America, bison and humans co-existed and interacted for millennia. Native stories and histories and archaeological investigations provide insights into this long relationship. Immerse yourself in lecture, story, and a place where bison roam.

- Robert Pickering, Ph.D.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction.

The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.

Day 1

7:00 p.m. Introductions; class begins.

Day 2

7:00 a.m. Bison biology - lecture
8:30 a.m. Break
8:45 a.m. Herbivores & carnivores - lecture
9:45 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. Prehistory of human/bison interaction - lecture
11:00 a.m. Classic "Plains Indian culture": Hollywood & reality - lecture
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. - Dark Watching bison in the field with discussions

Day 3

5:30 – 8:00 a.m. Early morning bison watch
9:00 a.m. Bison: "keystone" species of the plains - lecture
10:15 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. From near extinction to environmental success story - lecture
11:45 a.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. - Dark In the field watching and discussing bison

Day 4

9:00 a.m. Program ends/check-out time

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- Binoculars**
- Camera**
- Journal**, for notes (optional)

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- Belue, Ted Franklin. 1996 *The Long Hunt: Deat of the Buffalo East of the Mississippi*. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburge, PA.
- Braun, Seastian Felix. 2008. *Buffalo Inc.: American Indians and Economic Development*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK.
- Branch, E. Douglas. 1962. *The Hunting of the Buffalo*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.
- Brink, Jack W. 2008. *Imagining Head-Smashed-In: Aboriginal Buffalo Hunting on the Northern Plains*. Athabasca University Press.
- Dary, David. 1974. *The Buffalo Book*. Avon Books.
- Franke, Mary Ann. 2005. *To Save the Wild Buffalo: Life on the Edge of Yellowstone*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK.
- Meagher, Margaret Mary. 1973. *The Bison of Yellowstone*. National Park. NPS, Research Series No. 1., GPO, Washington, D.C.
- Guthrie, R.Dale. 1990. *Frozen Fauna of the Mammoth Steppe: The Story of Blue Babe*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Inman, Colonel Henry. 1899. *Buffalo Jones Forty Years of Adventure*. Crane & Company.
- Matthews, Anne. 1992. *Where the Buffalo Roam: The Storm Over the Revolutionary Plan to Restore America's Great Plains*. Grove Weidenfeld, NY.
- McDonald, Jerry N. 1981. *North American Bison: Their Classification and Evolution*. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA.
- Pickering Robert B. 1997. *Seeing the White Buffalo*. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO.
- Sandoz, Mari. 1954. *The Buffalo Hunters*. The University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln, NE.
- Smith, Victor Grant. 1997. *The Champion Buffalo Hunter: The Frontier Memoirs of a Yellowstone Vic Smith*. Twodot Press, Helena. MT.

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400