



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

WHERE THE BISON ROAM

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: Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 21, 2021, and ends on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course. You can find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#)

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 [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Bison are one of the most interesting, enigmatic, and important species in North America. They are part of the important story of climate change from the Ice Age to the Holocene and are considered to be a keystone species of the plains. Bison and humans have interacted for at least 10,000 to 12,000 years in North America. The human-bison connection goes back even further in Europe.

During this one-day session, you will learn about the importance of bison in natural history and to a succession of human cultures in North America, including our own. Much of the discussion will occur while the group is out looking at bison.

- 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.*

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.	From near extinction to environmental success story - lecture
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Watching bison in the field with discussions
5:00 p.m.	Program end

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: Death of the Buffalo East of the Mississippi*. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA.
- Braun, Sebastian Felix. 2008. *Buffalo Inc.: American Indians and Economic Development*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK.
- 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.
- 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.

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