

# SYLLABUS – NRSM 215 – Fall 2016

## Field Studies in Conservation

- Professors:** Alexander L. Metcalf  
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Office hours: Tues 11:30AM to 1:00PM **& by appointment**
- Meeting Times:** Thursday, September 8, 7:00PM-8:00PM  
Friday, September 16, all day starting at 11:00AM  
Saturday, September 17, all day  
Sunday, September 18, all day ending at 6:00PM
- Credits:** One (1.0)
- Location:** This course is entirely field based in Blackfoot Valley; Lubrecht Experimental Forest; Swan Valley; Flathead Lake Basin; & Kerr Dam
- Course Purpose:** Field-based learning about conservation exposes students to real-world settings and challenges related to the sustainable use of natural resources for the interrelated benefits of people and ecosystems. The Blackfoot Watershed, the Swan Valley, and Flathead Lake will serve as our field laboratory. Through a combination of field activities, discussions, and readings, students will begin to orient conservation issues in Western Montana within the broader biophysical and human landscape of North America. Students will engage first-hand with the ecological and social characteristics of the region, including resource-dependent livelihoods, issues of socioecological change, and current challenges to building resilience in functional ecosystems and sustainable human communities.
- Course Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, students will gain a basic understanding of:
- the unique biophysical environment of Western Montana
  - the land use and livelihood history of the areas visited including past social and ecological changes and potential future disturbances
  - the interrelationships between ecosystem function and human resource use
  - several landscape-level community-based approaches to natural resource management
  - the impact of water availability and use on both landscape pattern and human communities
  - natural resource governance jurisdictions, overlaps, and conflicts including those between state, federal, local and tribal entities in Western Montana
  - the concept of co-management of natural resources
- Required Readings:** There is NO textbook required for this course. All readings posted on Moodle:
- “Community-based approach to conservation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” by Gary Burnett
  - “Swan story” by Melanie Parker
  - “Negotiating tribal water rights” by Bonnie Colby, John Thorson, and Sarah Britton

**Optional Readings:** Here are a few optional readings that will enhance our learning objectives:

- “Stitching the west back together” (Chapters 1, 2, and 3) by Susan Charnley, Thomas Sheridan, and Gary Nabhan (Editors)
- “What happens next? Status of water rights compact with CSKT” by Colleen Coyle
- “Water rights tear at an Indian reservation” by Jack Healy

### **Grading and Course Requirements:**

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

This course will be graded on the following grading scale: 93-100 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86(B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 73-76 (C), 70-72 (C-), 60-69 (D), <60 (F).

Students will be required to attend the pre-trip meeting and the weekend field excursion. Students will also be required to come prepared. We will work with students to acquire appropriate gear and plan for the trip, but students must pack their own appropriate personal gear and be prepared to depart on time. Students will also be required to complete journal entries and respond to specific writing prompts throughout the trip. ***Students MUST purchase a blue book from the bookstore and bring it, along with field-durable writing implements, on the weekend field excursion.***

Grades will be based on the following rubric:

- 25 points - Attendance and participation at the pre-trip meeting
- 25 points - Being fully prepared for the field
- 25 points - Attendance and participation during the weekend field excursion
- 25 points - Journal entries and writing prompt responses
- **100 points TOTAL**

### **Academic Honesty:**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [Student Conduct Code Link: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated; all violations will result in reduced credit for the assignment, zero credit for the assignment, zero-credit for the course, and/or reference to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommason 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification.

### **Alcohol and Drugs:**

Alcohol and any drugs not prescribed by a doctor are PROHIBITED. Students are not permitted to bring any of these substances on the field excursion. STUDENTS CAUGHT WITH ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, will receive an F for the course, and be referred to the Dean’s office for further review and sanction. **There will be no second chances; there will be no discussion.**

### **Tobacco:**

Tobacco products are also PROHIBITED. University of Montana is a Tobacco-Free Campus. Cigarettes, cigars, cloves, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and all similar products are NOT ALLOWED on the field excursion. Students caught with these products will receive a reduced participation grade and be asked to discard all tobacco and smoking related products/paraphernalia.

**E-mail:**

Your UM e-mail is the only way we are allowed to communicate with you about University-related and course-related business. You are expected to check, read, and (if necessary) respond to your e-mail on a regular basis.

**Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course in Fall Semester 2014**

Deadline	Description	Date
To 15 <sup>th</sup> instructional day	Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund	September 19 = last day
16 <sup>th</sup> to 45 <sup>th</sup> instructional day	Drop requires form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar's office, student will receive a 'W' on transcript, no refund.	September 20 through October 31
Beginning 46 <sup>th</sup> instructional day to end	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, and similar reasons are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop the class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so by the end of the 45th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean and a \$10 fee applies.	November 1 through December 12