

Syllabus:

NRSM 180 - Careers in Natural Resources

Spring 2016 – 2 Credits

Instructors:

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Office Hours are Wed 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM, or by appointment

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Office Hours are Tues 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Thursday 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Lecture times:

10:10 AM – 11:00 AM – TR – Gallagher Business Building (GBB) 106

Course Objectives:

1. Learn about career opportunities within Natural Resource professions, with an emphasis on Wildlife Biology.
2. Develop a basic understanding of:
 - a. the historical origins and development of natural resource management and conservation, with an emphasis on wildlife;
 - b. fundamental concepts underlying wildlife conservation and management;
 - c. techniques used in wildlife research and management; and
 - d. future challenges and opportunities in wildlife and natural resource conservation.

Course Website:

MOODLE [UM Online](#). There is an online Moodle 101 course to assist you in learning the basics.

Readings

- Required
 - Textbook – *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold.
 - Readings as assigned on the course Moodle website.
Students are expected to have read the readings in advance of the specified lecture.
- Recommended
 - *Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation* by Paul Krausman
- Suggested
 - *On Becoming a Biologist*, Second Edition, by John Janovy, Jr.
 - *Wolf Wars* by Hank Fisher
 - *Man and Nature* by George Perkins Marsh
 - *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson
 - *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich
 - *The Tragedy of the Commons* by Garret Hardin
 - *The Diversity of Life* by E.O. Wilson

Lecture Schedule:

The course is structured with presentations by the instructor, teaching assistant, and **guest speakers** presenting information on their areas of expertise. Lectures are not recorded. Instructor Powerpoint presentations will generally be available through the course website after a lecture has been delivered. The availability of any guest lecture handouts or Powerpoint presentations is at the sole discretion of the lecturer. Students who miss a lecture should work with fellow students, the instructor and teaching assistant about the materials they missed.

The below table is the tentative schedule for this course. **Topics are subject to change.**

26 January	Course Overview, Introductory Lecture
28 January	Historical Development of Natural Resource and Wildlife Professions
2 February	Historical Figures in Natural Resource and Wildlife Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emphasis on Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac
4 February	Devin Landry: Insights into Graduate School; Effect of backcountry airstrips on wildlife.
9 February	A Sand County Almanac – Key concepts and historical significance
11 February	Evolution of Natural Resource and Wildlife Professions to the Present
16 February	Overview of Careers in Natural Resources
18 February	Overview of Careers in Wildlife Biology
23 February	Wildlife/Natural Resource Agency Lecture, with emphasis on State Agencies
25 February	Wildlife/Natural Resource Agency Lecture, with emphasis on Federal Agencies
1 March	Exam 1
3 March	Capture & Monitoring Techniques used to Study and Manage Wildlife
8 March	Key Concepts for Managing and Conserving Wildlife Populations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population Rate of Change, Carrying Capacity, Density Dependence, Limitation
10 March	Applying Key Concepts: Management of Harvested Species
15 March	Guest Lecture
17 March	Guest Lecture: Diane Boyd, Stoney Creek Ecological Consulting

22 March	Applying Key Concepts: Conservation of At-Risk Species
24 March	Guest Lecture
29 March	Guest Lecture
31 March	Exam 2
5 April	Spring Break – NO CLASS
7 April	Spring Break – NO CLASS
12 April	NEPA and ESA Overview – Current Examples in Wildlife Conservation ESSAYS DUE!
14 April	Walking the Fine Line: Science vs Advocacy
19 April	Guest Lecture
21 April	Guest Lecture
26 April	Guest Lecture
28 April	Future Conservation Challenges
3 May	Getting pumped to pursue a career in wildlife!
5 May	Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam
9-13 May	FINAL EXAM

Exams: Two midterm exams (March 1st and March 31st) and a Final exam (May 9-13).

The exams will be multiple choice and true-false. Students are required to supply their own scantron form for each exam. Course material in lectures and on the course Moodle website will be considered for all exams. Exam 1 (March 1st) will cover course material presented from the beginning of the course through the end of February. Exam 2 (March 31st) will cover only course material presented during March (i.e., between the first and second exam). The Final exam will be cumulative, covering course material presented throughout the entire course, but it will be weighted toward the material presented during April and May (i.e., following the second exam).

Time for midterm exams will be allotted as the regular course time, 10:10 AM -11:00 AM, and no extra time will be given to take midterm exams. Students arriving at a scheduled exam (both midterms and

final) AFTER the first person to finish the exam has left the room will not be allowed to take the exam and will be assigned a ZERO.

Make-up exams will be scheduled only when the professor is given documentation of a valid excused absence (see "Attendance Policy" below) **prior** to the scheduled exam time. Make-up exams may be in essay format and students will have 1 week following return to school to schedule exams – *this will be your responsibility*.

Essay:

All students are required to read A Sand County Almanac. As you read it, think about your personal connection to wildlife and natural resources and what brought you here to UM to pursue your selected major. You are required to write a short (~2-3 page) essay on this connection. It can be about a single incident in your life or it can be a summary of life experiences that drew you to this point in time. The essay can and should be very personal. It's our personal connections and foundations that ultimately make a career in natural resources so rewarding. In composing your essay, you must make reference to at least 2 passages from A Sand County Almanac that resonate with you and tie to your connection. **Your essay is due no later than April 12, although you can turn it in early.**

Essay Grading: All students who complete a 2-3 page essay as described above with proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling will receive full credit (15% of your total grade). Grades will be deducted accordingly for poor grammar and misspelled words, failure to reference at least 2 passages from A Sand County Almanac, and/or a failure to describe a personal connection to wildlife and natural resources.

Grading:

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

Description	%
Exam 1 (Mar 1st)	25%
Exam 2 (Mar 31st)	25%
Essay (Due April 12)	15%
Final (May 9-13)	35%
Total	100%

General Course Policies

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will not be recorded in lecture because your desire to learn will dictate your presence. Students are individually responsible for all information presented in lectures, guest lectures, and on the course Moodle website. No make-up exams will be scheduled. In the case of medical or other emergencies (e.g., legitimate, planned absences) I will work with the student individually in terms of rescheduling exam times, etc. Formal documentation will be required for legitimate emergencies that require a student to miss an exam.

Academic Dishonesty:

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](#).

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.

Dropping/Adding:

Drop/Add dates are posted at [Office of Registrar: Calendar](#).

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Spring 2016:

Date	Description	Date Range
To 15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on Cyberbear with refund	February 12 = last day
16 th to 45 th 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.	February 13 through March 28
Beginning 46 th instructional day	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, concerns over GPA, 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 45 th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean and a \$10 fee applies.	March 29 or later