International Sustainability Fellowship Program

NRSM 291 Culture and Ecology of Rural Resource Development. This one-credit class is the required course for all International Sustainability Fellows. Students enrolled as Fellows will meet once before their course departure and five times after to synthesize and present on their learning. Students are expected to choose one topic to investigate in depth, which draws from their studies abroad, and prepare a creative public presentation on the topic. Students will also prepare short presentations for each of the course meetings as a way to share insights from their study abroad experiences and make comparisons across regions. Supplemental readings will be discussed in the context of student learning and experiences. Students will also consider how to give back to the region where they studied.

Fall 2014 – Spring 2015
Class meets in the Clapp Building, room #452, unless otherwise noted

Instructor: Nicky Phear | Office: CHCB 465 | nicky.phear@umontana.edu | 243-6932
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00 pm and Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appointment

Sustainability Issues in Vietnam and Chile: Wednesday, February 4, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Map the regions
Students provide an overview of sustainability issues explored
Students share about the diversity of peoples, cultures, and histories
Concepts of sustainability and sustainable development, and tensions between conservation & development.
Discuss synergies: similarities, differences, insights

Ecology, Ecosystems, and Climate Change: Wednesday, February 18, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Diversity of the different regions studied. Share photographs.
Discuss the basic ecology of the regions; what factors shape these ecosystems; the dominant flora & fauna, natural resources, and ecosystem services
Discuss the dominant drivers of environmental change (e.g., climate change, dam building, land conversion for agriculture or resource extraction)
Discuss synergies: similarities, differences, insights
Confirm research projects/presentations

Human Communities and Natural Resource Management: Wednesday, March 4, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Discuss different types of conservation & sustainable development strategies and challenges
Community-based conservation strategies
Different types of protected areas: Public/Private
Discuss synergies: similarities, differences, insights

Leadership & Support for Sustainability Projects: Wednesday, March 18, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Local actors: Universities, government, NGOs, researchers, youth
Global cooperation: Opportunities and responsibilities
Student leadership & lessons learned
Final preparation for projects presentations

Student Presentations: Wednesday, March 25, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Each student will present for 10-15 minutes on their project and key insights
Reception with food from Vietnam and Chile
Featured presentation for UM’s International Month