

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