

SYLLABUS – NRSM 379 – Fall 2015
Collaboration in Natural Resource Decisions

Instructors

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Office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 10:00 to 11:00AM

Meeting Times

Monday 12:40 PM – 2:00 PM
Wednesday 12:40 PM – 2:00 PM

Credits

Three (3)

Location

108 Gallagher Business Building

Course Purpose

This course explores theories and methods used by natural resource professionals to engage stakeholders in natural resource decision-making processes. In addition to understanding the sciences, professionals must know how to facilitate dialogue and create outcomes embraced by stakeholders. This course will prepare students to successfully participate in and lead decision-making processes that purposefully incorporate diverse interests to address complex natural resource issues.

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate their own biases and foundations for practicing in a natural resources career
- Identify the wide range of stakeholders with potential interests in and contributions to natural resource conservation and management
- Recognize and articulate the purposes and principles of collaborative natural resource management
- Design and facilitate collaborative group processes for natural resource issues

Required Texts

Fisher, Roger and William Ury. 1991. *Getting to yes: Negotiating agreement without giving in*. New York: Penguin. 200p.
Straus, David. 2002. *How to make collaboration work*. San Francisco: Berrett- Koehler. 257p.

Course Format

This course is designed to incorporate lectures, readings, discussions, activities, writing assignments, case study reviews, and guest speakers to provide a range of learning opportunities for students. Current natural resource debates will be highlighted as illustrative examples.

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).

Grades will be based on the following rubric:

Participation	10 pts
Reflective Writings	20 pts
Final Project Paper	20 pts
Final Project Presentation	10 pts
Mini-Exams (4)	20 pts
Final Exam	20 pts
TOTAL	100 pts

To be successful in this class, you will be expected to:

- complete all readings & reflective writing assignments prior to each class to which they are assigned and actively participate in class discussions. *All reading assignments will be posted on Moodle.*
- attend two (2) collaborative meetings outside class (one on campus, one locally). Following each meeting, you will write a reflective writing about your experience and observations.
- participate in a group project centered on a contemporary natural resource issue. In each group, you will be expected to:
 - Interview one person involved in the issue/debate. *Interview questions will be discussed in class and reviewed by the instructors prior to conducting interviews.*
 - Contribute to writing a group paper reviewing the natural resource issue and the relevant stakeholders/issues; and
 - Contribute to building a presentation of the issue and presenting to the class at the end of the semester (see tentative schedule below for dates). Each student must present.
- demonstrate understanding of readings, lecture material, and class discussions via four (4) ‘mini-exams’ and a final exam (see tentative schedule below for dates). Mini-exams can be comprehensive and will last approximately 15-20min at the beginning *or* end of class. The final will be comprehensive.
- attend all classes. All mini-exams and assignment due dates are final, unless you contact me *beforehand* with a legitimate reason. Legitimate reasons include such things as: illness with note from Health Center or Doctor, fieldtrips in another course with Professor’s note, or other emergency obligations with documentation.
 - If you miss class, you are still responsible for the material (yes we covered something important). Please ask a classmate for the information before visiting me during office hours. Opportunities to make up mini-exams or participation points will only be offered to students who contact me *beforehand* and have a legitimate reason for missing class.
- complete and submit all assignments on time. All assignments are due 10 minutes after the start

of class on their due date, unless otherwise noted. Any writing assignment submitted after this time will lose 10 percent of the possible grade *each day*. In certain circumstances, late papers will be accepted *if you contact me at least 48 hours before the due date/time, you have a legitimate reason, and I give you written approval (e-mails count)*.

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](#). Plagiarism will not be tolerated; all plagiarism 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.

Equal Access

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.

Upper-Division Writing Courses

NRSM is an upper-division writing course within the College of Forestry and Conservation. These courses are designed to give students more experience with college-level writing. The following are the writing course learning outcomes and upper-division writing requirement in the major outcomes:

Writing Course Learning Outcomes:

- *Use writing to learn and synthesize new concepts*
- *Formulate and express written opinions and ideas that are developed, logical, and organized*
- *Compose written documents that are appropriate for a given audience or purpose*
- *Revise written work based on constructive feedback*
- *Find, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically*
- *Begin to use discipline-specific writing conventions*
- *Demonstrate appropriate English language usage*

Upper-Division Writing Requirement in the Major Outcomes:

- *Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry*
- *Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources*
- *Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate*
- *Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline*
- *Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work*
- *Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline*
- *Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy*

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Spring 2014

15 th instructional day	Last day to drop a class on Cyberbear with refund	September 21 (5:00PM)
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'. No refunds.	November 2 (5:00PM)
46 th instructional day to last day of the semester	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 45 th instructional day of the semester. Dropping after this date requires form with instructor, advisor, and Dean's signatures. \$10 fee. No refunds. Students will receive a 'WP' or 'WF.'	December 11 (5:00PM)

Last items

Please be mindful of others and do not use cell phones or eat food in class (especially if it smells really good and you don't have enough to share).

UM is a tobacco free campus. This includes smokeless tobacco. Do not bring this to class or you will be asked to leave.

Your UM e-mail is the only way I am 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

Tentative Schedule on Next Page

Tentative Course Schedule

Any course schedule updates will be posted on Moodle
All supplemental readings and assignments will be posted on Moodle
Additional collaborative meeting opportunities will be posted on Moodle

Week 1

- Aug. 31 Introduction and overview of collaboration
- Sept. 2 Human dimensions of natural resources decisions

Week 2

- Sept. 7 Labor Day (NO CLASS)
- Sept. 8 *Collaborative meeting opportunity: SWCC Collaborative Meeting and Field Trip (Lincoln, MT).*
- Sept. 9 Incorporating people in natural resource decisions

Week 3

- Sept. 14 Private Lands Conservation
- Sept. 16 *Collaborative meeting opportunity: Lolo Restoration Committee (Missoula, MT. 6:30 to 8:30PM)*
- Sept. 16 *Collaborative meeting opportunity: Blackfoot Challenge (Lubrecht Experimental Forest, 10:00 to 3:00)*
- Sept. 16 to 18 ***Required collaborative meeting: Crown of the Continent Roundtable (We will sign up for specific sessions in class)***
- Sept. 16 Crown Roundtable Conference (NO CLASS)

Week 4

- Sept. 21 Spectrum of Involvement
[Mini-Exam 1]
- Sept. 23 Learning to Listen
[Reflective Writing 1 Due: Crown Roundtable Conference]

Week 5

- Sept. 28 Active Listening
[Final Project Group Membership and Topic Due]
- Sept. 30 Principled Negotiation

Week 6

- Oct. 5 Guest Speaker: Gary Burnett, Blackfoot Challenge & Chris Clancy, TNC
[Final Project Group Plan Due]
[Reflective Writing 2 Due: Interview Questions and Approach]
- Oct. 7 Collaborative Principals I (Inclusivity, Representation, Democracy, & Legal)
[Mini-Exam 2]

Week 7

- Oct. 12 Collaborative Principals II (Trust, Transparency, & Fellowship)
- Oct. 14 Collaborative Principals III (Deliberative, Impartial, & Empowering)

Week 8

Oct. 19 Collaborative Processes (Process Mapping & Meeting Administration)
Oct. 21 Examples of Collaboration
[Reflective Writing 3 Due: Elements of Collaborative Success/Failure]
Oct. 21 *Collaborative meeting opportunity: Blackfoot Challenge*
(Lubrecht Experimental Forest, 10:00 to 3:00)

Week 9

Oct. 26 Cognitive Hierarchy (Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values)
Oct. 28 Structured Decision Making
[Mini-Exam 3]

Week 10

Nov. 2 *Final project group work*
Nov. 4 *Final project group work*

Week 11

Nov. 9 Guest Speaker: Maria Mantas, Swan Ecosystem Center
[Final Project Group Papers Due]
Nov. 11 Veterans Day (NO CLASS)

Week 12

Nov. 16 Guest Speaker: Zack Porter, Montana Wilderness Association
Nov. 18 Facilitation I

Week 13

Nov. 23 Facilitation II
[Mini-Exam 4]
Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Travel Day (NO CLASS)

Week 14

Nov. 30 Final Project Presentations I
Dec. 2 Final Project Presentations II

Week 15

Dec. 7 Final project presentations III
Dec. 9 *Semester debrief and review*
[Reflective Writing 4 Due: Collaborative Meeting Debrief]
[Re-write of Final Paper Due]

Finals Week

Dec. 14 Monday, 1:10PM to 3:10PM
[Final Exam]