

Wilderness and Civilization Internship/Service Learning

NRSM 398, Spring 2016

Faculty Advisor: Rachel James
Wilderness Institute Assistant Director
Office: Main Hall 307, Wilderness Institute
Contact: 243-6916 (office); rachel.james@umontana.edu

Course Objectives

The purpose of the Internship is to give students an opportunity to gain hands-on, "real world" experience working with community organizations and land management agencies. This internship program is designed to give students a chance to apply the ideas and concepts studied in the Wilderness and Civilization Program and to work with specific projects and organizations in and around Missoula. During the fall semester, students have studied interdisciplinary concepts in wilderness and civilization-public policies, environmental laws, ecological concepts, natural resource issues, theoretical and ethnographic approaches to wilderness studies, and historical perspectives on many topics in public lands management and changing societal values. Students met with many organizations and individuals, as well as completed many field trips focusing on many different topics. Because the Wilderness and Civilization program's outcome is to "connect students to on-the-ground conservation issues in hands-on experiential learning environments," we conclude the program with an internship chosen by each student to gain hands-on experience in wilderness and civilization studies.

This internship class fulfills the requirements of a Service Learning course. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty, and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students' understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Gain supervised, practical work experience with specific projects and organizations related to wilderness and civilization concepts discussed in the fall semester coursework,
- Further develop knowledge of specific conservation approaches,
- Develop practical work skills,
- Establish a network of professional contacts in the field, and
- Apply ideas and approaches studied in the Wilderness and Civilization program to their internship work.

Specific Learning Outcomes

- Apply concepts learned during class to specific community development, conservation, or political issues in our local communities and public lands,
- Learn about additional conservation issues not discussed in classroom activities during Fall semester,
- Complete a project that focuses on a topic that we discussed during Fall semester,
- And use critical thinking and problem solving skills to help complete a project with an organization that we have discussed during class in the fall semester.

Course Requirements

Work

Students are required to work with their organization six hours a week throughout the semester.

Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held two times during the semester as follows:

- ❑ **TBD from 4:00-5:00 pm in UC Room 330.** Introduction to the internship, outline of requirements, meet and create work schedule with supervisor.
- ❑ **Mid-term evaluation of internship. Students meet individually or in small groups with Rachel. To be completed in March.** This is meant as a check-in about the internships.

Mid-term/Final Evaluations (distributed electronically through Internship Services)

Mid-term evaluations are completed by the student and are due in late March; final evaluations are due May 6.

Assignments

1 blog post, submitted on the Friday of the week that you will sign up for with Rachel, in person or electronically. In order to receive credit for the internship, you MUST COMPLETE 1 blog post that contain the following:

600 word description of your internship experience that answers the following questions: What are you learning in your internship?

What kinds of activities have you accomplished? New skills you have learned?

How does your internship reflect what you have learned during your time in the Wilderness and Civilization program.

Must include at least 5 photos from your internship activities in each blog post.

Students submit their blog entries to Rachel via email on the dates due. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior consent.

Grading

Students will be graded on a P/NP basis. In order to Pass all above requirements must be completed.

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](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).