

Field Studies in Conservation

Professors: Brian C. Chaffin
Assistant Professor of Water Policy & Governance
464 Charles H. Clapp Building (CHCB)
e-mail: brian.chaffin@umontana.edu; Phone: (406) 243-6575
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00PM, or by appointment

Ben Colman
Assistant Professor of Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology
449 Charles H. Clapp Building (CHCB)
e-mail: ben.colman@umontana.edu; Phone: (406) 243-6315
Office hours: Flexible, [sign up here](#).

Meeting Times: Monday, September 9, 5:00PM-6:00PM (*Mandatory pre-trip meeting*)
Friday, September 13 at 9:00AM to Sunday, September 15 at 5:30PM (*Field course*)
November evening meeting TBD (*Follow up meeting*)

Credits: 1.0

Location: This course is entirely field-based. We will travel to the Blackfoot Valley, Lubrecht Experimental Forest (University of Montana), Swan Valley, and the Flathead Lake Basin

Course Purpose: Field-based learning about conservation exposes students to real-world settings and challenges related to the sustainable use of natural resources for the interrelated benefits of people and ecosystems. The Blackfoot Watershed, the Swan Valley, and Flathead Lake will serve as our field laboratory. Through a combination of field activities, discussions, and readings, students will begin to orient themselves around conservation issues in Western Montana and in the broader biophysical and human landscape of North America. Students will engage first-hand with the ecological and social characteristics of the region, including resource-dependent livelihoods, issues of social and ecological change, and current challenges to building resilience in functional ecosystems and sustainable human communities.

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will gain a basic understanding of:

- The unique biophysical environment of Western Montana
- The land use and livelihood history of the areas visited including past social and ecological changes and potential future disturbances
- The interrelationships between ecosystem function and human resource use
- Several landscape-level community-based approaches to natural resource management
- The impact of water availability and use on both landscape pattern and human communities
- Natural resource governance jurisdictions, overlaps, and conflicts including those between state, federal, local, and tribal entities in Western Montana
- The concept of co-management of natural resources

Required Readings: Please read the following PRIOR to embarking on the field course (Sept 13):

- *There There: A Novel* by Tommy Orange (*Each student will get a FREE copy Sept 9th*)
 - Read Chapters 1-2 prior to field course (by Sept 13)
 - Read the remainder of the book prior to meeting in November
- “Swan story” by Melanie Parker (*Moodle*)

- “Stitching the west back together” (Chapters 1, 2, and 3) by Susan Charnley, Thomas Sheridan, and Gary Nabhan, Eds. (*Moodle*)
- TBD (*Moodle*)

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).

Students are required to attend the pre-trip meeting, the weekend field excursion, and one follow-up class session, location and time TBA. Students are also required to come prepared for the field weekend and the follow-up class session. We will work with students to acquire appropriate gear and plan for the field weekend, but students must pack their own appropriate personal gear and be prepared to depart on time. Students are also required to complete journal entries and respond to specific writing prompts throughout the field weekend. ***Students MUST purchase a “blue book” from the bookstore and bring it, along with field-durable writing implements, on the weekend field excursion.***

Grades will be based on the following:

- 10 points – Attendance and participation at the pre-trip meeting
- 40 points – Attendance and participation during the weekend field excursion
- 25 points – Journal entries and writing prompt responses during the field excursion weekend
- 25 points – Attendance, preparation, and participation at the follow-up class session
- **100 points TOTAL**

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 the [Student Conduct Code Link](#). Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated; all violations 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 for further disciplinary action.

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. We will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate modification for this course.

Alcohol and Drugs:

Alcohol and any drugs not prescribed by a doctor are strictly PROHIBITED. Students are not permitted to bring any of these substances on the field excursion. STUDENTS CAUGHT WITH ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, will receive an F for the course, and be referred to the Dean’s office for further review and action. **There will be no second chances; there will be no discussion.**

Tobacco:

Tobacco products are also PROHIBITED. University of Montana is a Tobacco-Free Campus. Cigarettes, cigars, cloves, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and all similar products are NOT ALLOWED on the field excursion. Students caught with these products will receive a reduced participation grade and be asked to discard all tobacco and smoking related products/paraphernalia.

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Fall 2019:

| Deadline | Description | Date |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| To 15 th instructional day | Students can drop classes on CyberBear with refund & no “W” on Transcript | September 16, @5 PM |
| 16 th to 45 th instructional day | A class drop requires a form with instructor and advisor signature, a \$10 fee from registrar’s office, student will receive a ‘W’ on transcript, no refund. | September 17 – October 28 @5 PM |
| Beginning 46 th instructional day | <p><u>Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances.</u> 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, switching majors, 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 45th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean (in that order) so if you pursue this request, <i>leave sufficient time to schedule meetings with each of these individuals</i> (generally this will take at least 3-5 working days). A \$10 fee applies if approved. Instructors must indicate whether the individual is Passing or Failing the class at the time of request.</p> | October 28 – December 6 @5 PM |

Email:

Your UM e-mail is the only way we communicate with you outside of class 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.