

SYLLABUS – NRSM 115 – Fall 2020

First Year Seminar: Field Studies in Conservation

Professors:

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Meeting Times:

Wednesday, August 26th, 5:00PM-8:00PM – University Center #303
Wednesday, September 9th, 5:00PM-8:00PM – [Council Grove State Park](#)
Saturday, September 12th, 7:00AM-5:00PM (*Field day: University transportation provided*)
Wednesday, September 23rd, 5:00PM-8:00PM – [Johnsrud Park, Blackfoot River](#)

Credits:

1.0

Location:

This course is a field-based course. We will meet on campus during our first class meeting to get oriented, but after that we will be primarily off-campus. University transportation will be provided for the full field day on Saturday Sept 12th, and transportation will be provided for those who cannot easily get to the local field site meetings on September 9th and 23rd.

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 Clark Fork River 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, legacies of resource extraction, ecosystem restoration, 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 (or listen to) the following as course materials (due dates in parenthesis):

- [Richest Hill Podcast](#) (Nora Saks of MT Public Radio) Episode 1 (Aug 26)
- ["6 Native leaders on what it would look like if the US kept its promises"](#) by Rory Taylor on *Vox.com* (Sept 9)
- *Richest Hill*, Episodes 2-4 (Sept 9)
- "Pennies from Hell" by Edwin Dobb in *Harper's Magazine* (on Moodle; Sept 12)
- *Richest Hill*, Episodes 5-8 (Sept 12)
- "Remediating a Superfund sacrifice zone on Montana's Clark Fork river" by Brad Tyer in *High Country News* (on Moodle; Sept 12)
- Chapters 1-3 in the book *Stitching the west back together* (on Moodle; Sept 23)
- Go to the [Blackfoot Challenge website](#), and look at their pages titled "Who we are" and "What we do" and peruse some their materials (Sept 23)

Statement on safety:

We expect that all students and both instructors will follow all UM safety protocols. This includes:

- disinfecting shared use equipment
- using hand sanitizer
- using masks properly for all inside and outside class activities
- practicing physical distancing
- having only one person per row and wearing masks when in vehicles

Please contact DSS for either an accommodation to be completely remote for the semester or for any safety protocol modification you may need (depending on the needs we may or may not be able to accommodate the modification without requesting that you complete the class remotely). If students decide not to follow all safety protocols, we will immediately adjust our face to face activities and transition towards full remote learning for the entire class.

This is for your safety, our safety, and the safety of the community and will help to minimize any risk of transmission. Secondary contacts of asymptomatic people will likely occur for all of us whether through family, work, socializing, or school. Working to reduce transmission increases the probability that we all stay healthy, be able to maintain all planned face-to-face activities, and the better the class will be for all. That said, we will be prepared to have all assignments able to be completed remotely if needed, so if you are feeling sick or have been exposed, please follow UM Policy. Please let us know and we will excuse or allow you to make up any participation points or any points from face to face activities.

If you feel uncomfortable with any proposed activity or if UM cases increase, please reach out and we can accommodate more remote learning through the rest of the semester. Again, this is a novel and ever changing landscape so mutual respect, honest and early communication, and flexibility is needed for us to have a successful semester.

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 all class meetings or make up all class sessions through alternative arrangements which will be posted on Moodle. Students are also required to come prepared for the field day (Sept 12th). We will work with students to acquire appropriate gear and plan for the field day, but students must pack their own appropriate personal gear and be prepared to depart on time. Students are also required to respond to specific writing prompts throughout the course which will be released on Moodle.

Grades will be based on the following:

- 30 points – Attendance and participation in each of the three evening classes (10 points each class)
- 30 points – Attendance and participation during the all-day field day September 12th
- 40 points – Writing prompts on Moodle following each class and all-day field trip
- **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: [Student Conduct Code: http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php). 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 Lommasson 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 2020:

Deadline	Description	Date
15 th instructional day	Students can drop classes on CyberBear with refund & no "W" on Transcript	September 9, @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 10 – October 21 @5 PM
Beginning 46 th instructional day	<u>Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances.</u> 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.	October 22 – November 18 @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.