

Syllabus
NRSM 495 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PRACTICUM 2021
Schedule: Monday 4-4:50 pm, North Underground Lecture Hall Tent, LA 337

Course information:

- Instructor: Ben Colman (Clapp 449)
- Email: ben.colman@umontana.edu
- Phone: (406) 243-6315
- Office Hours: Flexible, sign up at: <https://ben-colman.youcanbook.me>

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Gain real-world experience in the practice of ecosystem science, ecological restoration, and/or the science of restoration ecology
- Implement a restoration, monitoring, and/or research plan as a service learning project with a community partner (*i.e.*, private entity, nonprofit group, management agency or other partner)
- Collect, analyze, and describe data collected

Instructor will:

- Provide feedback on project scope and implementation
- Assist in troubleshooting the inevitable pitfalls and problems that arise in project management and implementation
- Assist in analyzing data, determining what story the data reveal
- Work with students to turn the results of their projects into a written document

Writing specific objectives:

- 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

The scope of work for the practicum will have been developed in collaboration with a community partner during NRSM 344 (*Ecosystem Science and Restoration Capstone*). Final responsibility rests with the students for collaborating with the community partner and for establishing meeting times and locations. After completing all practicum credits, students are expected to enroll in NRSM 494, *Seminar in Ecosystem Science and Restoration*, in which they will revise their practicum report (described below), give a presentation on their findings, and reflect on their practicum experience and findings.

Prerequisites for enrollment:

Enrollment in this course requires senior standing in the Ecosystem Science and Restoration major and formal consent of instructor. Prior to enrollment, students *must* have:

1. Completed: NRSM 265, Elements of Ecological Restoration; and NRSM 344, Ecological Restoration Capstone
2. Developed a faculty and partner approved practicum proposal
3. Developed a draft scope of work to be completed during the practicum

Course Outcomes:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Work effectively with community partners, and organizations
2. Conduct key aspects of ecosystem science and restoration projects, including designing and implementing restoration and/or monitoring projects
3. Communicate effectively with restoration professionals and community partners

Requirements:

All of the following must be completed before credit can be assigned:

1. **Meetings:** At least two meetings must be scheduled with the instructor and partner to develop the practicum work and to reflect on the practicum experience. It is the students' responsibility to initiate these meetings and to come to the instructor with any concerns or questions during the practicum. These meetings are the minimum: more meetings are welcome.
 - a. First (by September 15th), this meeting will serve as a chance to write and finalize the contract (described below)
 - b. Second (by November 1st), this meeting will serve as a midway check-in during which the students will provide a status report
 - c. Third (by December 12th), this final meeting will serve as an exit interview
2. **Practicum contract:** This document is to be signed by the students, instructor, and partner sometime after the first meeting. This contract is to be written by the students and must describe the expectations for the specific work to be performed. The scope of work can be a launching point for constructing this contract
3. **Paper drafts:** There will be a first (Intro to Results) and second (Intro to Discussion) draft of the paper summarizing practicum findings. Students are expected to use their proposals as a framework for the paper, but to build off of the content included in the

proposal.

4. **Group narrative:** details activities performed and hours worked based on the scope of work set forth in the contract and the hour logs maintained by the individual students. Note, the practicum requires a minimum of 135 hours of work for 3 credits, with a maximum of 270 hrs for 6 credits, or 45 hours per credit. This report should be synthetic (summarizing all group members' efforts) and provide a more narrative version of the hour logs kept by individual students.
5. **Self assessment:** an opportunity for reflection on the practicum experience and students self-and group-evaluations of performance.

Evaluation:

1. Meetings
 - a. First meeting with instructor and partner (10 pts)
 - b. Second meeting with instructor and partner (10 pts)
 - c. Third meeting with instructor and partner (10 pts)
2. Practicum Contract (5 pts)
3. Paper Drafts:
 - a. First draft (Nov. 19) (15 pts)
 - b. Final draft (Dec. 14) (20 pts)
4. Group narrative (10 pts)
5. Self assessments (10 pts)
6. Data and methods in final form and archived for partner and instructor (10 pts)

Rubric Draft 1: Introduction through Results

Grammar and typos	3 points
Sentence Structure	4 points
Paragraph Structure	4 points
Data analysis	2 points
Citations	2 points
Total	15 points

Rubric Final Draft: Introduction through Discussion

Grammar and typos	4 points
Sentence Structure	4 points
Paragraph Structure	4 points
Data analysis	2 points
Citations	2 points
Improvement	4 points
Total	20 points

Explanation of rubric components:

These rubrics were are similar to those used in NRSM 344 and were designed as a way for the instructor to evaluate the student's draft papers in a fashion similar to the capstone.

Rubric components:

- *Grammar and typos:* To what degree do the words and sentences follow the norms of spelling and grammar?
- *Sentence Structure:* To what degree are sentences clearly written? Here, students are evaluated on both the readability of the individual sentences, as well as whether sentences flow from one to the next as opposed to being written like lists (i.e., starting with the same subject and just listing different attributes).
- *Paragraph Structure:* Do the other sentences in the paragraph go towards supporting that topic? Is appropriate content covered in the appropriate sections of the proposal?
- *Citations:* Are adequate citations included to support specific outside knowledge? Is sufficient outside knowledge presented to support the various parts of the paper?
- *Improvement:* Have suggestions made in response to the first draft been incorporated into the final draft?

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 should read and be familiar with the policies contained in the [Student Conduct Code \(http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php\)](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

Accessibility:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact the ODE at: (406) 243-2243, ode@umontana.edu, or visit www.umt.edu/disability for more information. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored, so please, do not delay. As your instructor, I will work with you and the ODE to implement an effective accommodation, and you are welcome to contact me privately if you wish.

COVID-19

- Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. Key to this process is clear communication. My phone number is 406 243 6315.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field sites as part of class/fieldwork.

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with ODE, please contact them by:

Option 1: Submit [the inquiry form](#)

Option 2: Email them at ode@umontana.edu

Option 3: Call them at (406) 243-2243