

NRSM 595 Research Methods in Conservation Social Sciences

Fall 2022, W 4-5:50 pm, CHCB 452, 1.0 Credit

Instructor: Laurie Yung

laurie.yung@umontana.edu

Office hours: By appointment (please email to schedule – I am always happy to meet)

Course Description

This 1.0 credit course provides an introduction to proposal development and some of the research methods commonly utilized in conservation social sciences.

Course Objectives

Students in this course will:

- Be able to complete a literature review, identify a research question, and connect theory and methods.
- Be familiar with quantitative, qualitative, and indigenous methods commonly used in conservation social sciences.
- Understand research ethics and the IRB process.
- Develop a detailed research proposal outline.

Course Readings and Videos

Course readings and videos will be available on Moodle/UMOnline.

Course Schedule

Note this course does not meet every week. See schedule below for specific meeting times.

9.7 What is Science? What is Social Science?

9.21 Developing a Research Proposal 1: The Role of the Literature Review

Guest Speaker: Sarah Halvorson, Geography Program

9.28 Developing a Research Proposal 2: Connecting Theory and Methods

10.5 Survey Sampling and Design

Guest Speaker: John Baldridge, Bureau of Business and Economic Research

10.26 Semi-Structured, In-Depth Interviews

11.2 Indigenous Research Methods

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Harrington, Native American Natural Resources Program

11.9 Research Ethics and IRB

11.16 *Proposal Outlines Due (No Class Meeting Today)*

11.30 Developing a Research Proposal 3: Pulling it All Together

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due Date
Attendance and Participation	70%	Ongoing
Proposal Outline	30%	11.16

Attendance and Participation

This course is a graduate seminar, which means that students are responsible for contributing to the content of the course through engaged participation and discussion. The success of the course depends on a collective dialogue about the meaning and implications of the readings and other course materials. Students are expected to carefully and thoroughly read ALL assigned readings prior to class and come to class prepared to discuss, examine, analyze, and critique each reading. “Engaged participation” does not refer to the number of comments you make during class or your level of expertise, but rather describes the sort of thoughtful, meaningful, prepared (meaning you *actively* read/completed the assignments) questions and comments that further your own intellectual development and that of the group. Civility and respect for different views and ideas are also expected.

Proposal Outline

A detailed proposal outline will be due on 11.16. Guidelines will be provided in advance. Students will review each other’s proposal outlines prior to class on 11.30.

Course Policies

Equal Access to Instruction and Office of Disability Equity

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.

Cultural Leave Policy

Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean, or Provost. The excused absence or

leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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](#). Please be aware that plagiarism is a violation of the student conduct code and will not be tolerated in this course. If a student plagiarizes, their course grade will be impacted and the UM Dean of Students will be notified. If you aren't entirely certain what constitutes plagiarism is, please see these excellent resources:

[Plagiarism Web Link](#)

[Writing Center Link](#)

[Owl English Purdue Link](#)

[Owl English Purdue Resource Link](#)

Grading Option

Please note that this class is offered for traditional letter grade only; it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

Deadlines

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Fall 2021

Please see these two webpages for information on drop deadlines and the process for dropping a course: <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/drop-add/default.php> and <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar/autumn.php>