

## **NRSM 492: Capstone in Restoration and Natural Resources**

Tuesday's 2:00 PM to 4:50 PM

3 Credits

### **Instructor Information**

*Instructor:* Akasha Faist

Meeting location: Chemistry Building rm 102

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Office Hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

Ecological Restoration is a fast-growing discipline that offers a variety of professional opportunities locally and globally. With the stated definition of ecological restoration being "... the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed" (SER primer – 2004) jobs within this field have a central focus, but also are broad in their topics and who is hiring. This course is designed to familiarize students with these different job opportunities in the public and private sectors. Student ownership of material and engagement is central to a capstone course. Students will develop plans of projects to ask, interpret, and report on important ecological restoration management efforts via written work and oral presentations, as they relate to their own interests and career goals.

### **Learning Goals**

*By the end of the course, students should:*

- Acquire a greater understanding of the breadth of professional opportunities in the field of Ecological Restoration.
- Develop professional opportunities and preparation materials for job applications and careers aligned with student interests.
- Build restoration relevant skills (through writing and presentation) to address problems associated with ecological restoration.
- Be able to speak to the skills learned independently and cooperatively.

### **Textbooks and required reading**

There is no formal textbook for this course. Reading materials will be provided on Moodle prior to the class it is associated with.

### **Course Structure**

This course will be based on students interests and will be different for each student given their agreed upon goals for the semester.

### **University guidelines, policies, and resources:**

#### **Student Conduct Code**

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review on-line at the [Student Conduct Code](#) website.

#### **Course add and withdrawal dates**

The last day for students to add classes via CyberBear without the consent of the instructor is September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. From September 7<sup>th</sup> through September 18<sup>th</sup> adds must be approved by instructor via electronic

override in CyberBear. The [academic calendar](#) in addition to holidays and other academic calendar events states the semester withdrawal deadlines and information to contact with questions. September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is the last day to withdraw from a class with refund. December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is the last day to withdraw from the semester.

#### Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

#### Cultural Leave

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.

#### ElevateU Career readiness

The University is committed to the career success of our students and encourages you to participate in [ElevateU](#) -UM's signature career readiness program- to ensure that you graduate career-ready, with the education, skills, and tools needed to launch, carry-on, and pivot your post-graduate career. Participation in ElevateU is free and can be started at any time, no matter where you are in your academic career or career journey. Get started by creating a profile on [Handshake](#) to search for jobs and internships or by [scheduling an appointment](#) with an [Experiential Learning and Career Success \(ELCS\)](#) career coach or advisor.

#### Assignment and Course expectations

##### Late Assignment Policy:

**Late assignments must be submitted within one week (7 days) of the original due date;** and 25% (for 1 to 3 days late) and 50% for (4 to 7 days late) will be automatically deducted from the points possible for the late assignment. Exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of the instructor and may be made under certain circumstances but student is responsible for communicating with the instructor *before* the assignment is late. The requirement for prior arrangements may be waived by the instructor in response to tragic events outside the control of the student.

##### Multiple Submissions:

Multiple submissions or using work that has been submitted for credit in another course for this course, is highly discouraged. Any multiple submissions must be discussed with the instructor prior to assignment due date. If an assignment is submitted that has received credit in another course, without discussing this with the instructor, the assignment will automatically be given a zero.

### Writing:

Writing must be done by the student turning in the assignment. Plagiarism of another's work, copying a fellow or past student's efforts, or using AI (e.g., ChatGPT) to write the assignment, is all considered outside the scope of "student's own words" and is not allowed. Should it be discovered a student is not writing their own work, all University policies will be followed, communicated to the student, and depending on the severity of the infraction, could result in zero points for that assignment or the course.

### Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices during class, including laptops and tablets, is only permitted ***so long as the use is directly related to the class session***. Out of respect for your fellow students, instructors and guest speakers, please **silence portable electronic devices** before coming into class.

### Transportation Policy

Students are strongly encouraged to ride in the provided vehicles for field trips. If a personal vehicle must be taken, this must be communicated with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the day of the field trip. Students who drive their own vehicles will not be reimbursed for mileage and are covered only by their own auto insurance. If students choose to drive together (carpool), please note the driver is liable for not only themselves but also the passenger (as with any private vehicle).

### **Evaluation**

As this is a highly topic and student specific course, evaluations will be decided, agreed upon with the student and instructor, and delivered on an individual student case by case basis.

### **Potential assignments**

- Attendance, participation, and in-class assignments
- Reflection pieces and summaries
- Job application -Every student will submit one "job application"
- Final project report, research project, write up -Every student will have a final project
- Final Presentation -Every student will have a final presentation

### **Grade Scale**

The grading scale is consistent with that used on the University of Montana campus. The traditional letter grade scale is below. Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	> 93	C	73 - 77
A-	90 - 93	C-	70 – 72
B+	88 - 89	D+	68 - 69
B	83 – 87	D	63 - 67
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
C+	78 - 79	F	<60

### **Land Acknowledgement**

*"The university of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for generations to come.*