

Syllabus

NRSM 494 Ecosystem Science and Restoration Seminar

Spring 2020: Mondays, 4 PM-4:50 PM, JRH 203

Instructor information:

- Instructor: Ben Colman
- Email: ben.colman@umontana.edu
- Phone: (406) 243-6315
- Office Hours: please schedule through <https://ben-colman.youcanbook.me/>

Overview:

This class is the third and final installment of the Ecosystem Science and Restoration Capstone Experience. Students started in the capstone class and continued with either the practicum, an internship, or a senior thesis. In this seminar, we will discuss ways to improve the efficacy of our writing, discuss the peer review process, use peer review to improve upon the research papers that you began the previous semester, finalize those papers, and create presentations to communicate the findings of your work.

Outcomes:

1. Given a paper or presentation, students will be able to provide a summary of its strengths and weaknesses, and constructive suggestions for its improvement.
2. Students will be able to describe the motivation, methods, and results from their independent or group projects, and discuss the importance and implications of those findings.

Class format:

Class will be conducted largely through regularly scheduled class periods. Assignments must be submitted through Google drive, which will also be used for distribution of feedback, and documenting any modifications.

Assignments:

There are several assignments in this class, including assigned readings, peer reviews of one another's papers, revisions of your own papers (two drafts), and the final presentation. Assignments will be due before class starts. Late assignments will be penalized by 50% of the remaining score per day. Detailed descriptions of expectations and rubrics for grading these assignments will be posted on the Google Drive folder for this course. Assigned writing must be turned in prior to the start of class on Google Drive.

Course guidelines and policies:

Grading:

Rubrics for each assignment will be posted along with the descriptions of those assignments on Moodle. The overall distribution of points for different assignments is summarized in the table below.

Assignment	Total Points	Description
Peer reviews	30	7.5-points for each of four peer reviews
Revisions	30	15 points for each of two revisions
Presentation	20	10 points for content, 10 points for delivery
Participation	20	10 points for attendance, 10 points for engagement

This course is offered as traditional letter grade only. Students cannot change to credit/no credit at any time during the semester.

Schedule and attendance policy:

With the exception of January 13th and February 17th, we will meet every Monday from 4 PM to 4:50 PM. Because of the nature of this class, attendance is mandatory and points will be deducted for absences. I may excuse brief and occasional absences for reasons of illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance, or participation in a University sponsored activity. (University sponsored activities include for example, field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletics.) I will also excuse absences for reasons of military service or mandatory public service. Requests for excused absences require an email before class with "NRSM 494 absence request" in the email subject, and a description of why you will be absent.

Date	Homework (due by start of class)	In class
January 13	None	Overview and catch-up
January 20	No homework, break!	No class, break!
January 27	Read Nicholas and Gordon, 2011	Discuss peer review
February 3	Draft UMCUR Abstracts, Read Gopen and Swan, 1990	Discuss reader expectations
February 10	Peer reviews	Discuss peer reviews
February 14	UMCUR Abstracts due	
February 17	No homework, break!	No class, break!
February 24	Presentation outline	Discuss outlines
March 2	Draft talk	Talk run-throughs
March 9	Revised talk	Talk run-throughs
March 16	None, SPRING BREAK!	SPRING BREAK!
March 23	Revised talk	Talk run-throughs
March 26-28	NCUR	NCUR
March 30	Paper revisions due , Revised talk	Talk run-throughs
April 6	Revise talk	Group meetings
April 13	Revise talk	Talk run-throughs
April 20	Revise, practice talk	Talk run-throughs
April 24	UMCUR! Present! Celebration after	Special date/time
May 1	Final revisions due	

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).

Adjustments for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. [Disability Services for Students](http://life.umt.edu/dss) (<http://life.umt.edu/dss>) will assist in the accommodation process.

Communication:

All course communications outside of class will be sent to students' University of Montana email accounts. If you would like extra credit, practice your communication skills and email me a personal anecdote involving a rodent. Make sure to put "rodent story" in the subject of the email. Do not mention this within class or everybody else will get a point but you. It is your responsibility to regularly check your University account. In general, my policy is to respond to email within 24 hours (except on weekends).

Illness policy:

If you come down with symptoms including either fever or vomiting, please do not come to class unless you are free of fever or vomiting for 24 hours prior to class time. Do email me, as per the schedule and attendance policy.