

NRSM 594
Course Syllabus Spring 2020
Department of Society and Conservation Graduate Seminar

Instructors

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Meeting times

Tuesdays 4:00 – 4:50 pm

Location

206 Forestry Building

Credits

One (1.0) credit

Technology

Moodle

Course Description

The Graduate Seminar for the Department of Society and Conservation offers a broad exploration of research and application in the environmental social sciences. This course affords students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with current work in this field, attend lectures by prominent social science academics and practitioners, and interact with speakers to deepen scholarly investigation and curiosity. Invited speakers come from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, from around UM's campus and more broadly from across Montana and beyond. Topics this semester will include culturally congruent education, climate change impacts on Montana's outdoor recreation industry, water protection on agricultural lands, social aspects of large landscape conservation, environmental journalism, data analytics, coproduction of research, and more. This year's course will also engage students in dynamic professional development exercises tailored to student needs. Students are encouraged to attend optional post-seminar gatherings and engage in informal professional dialogue with speakers, fellow classmates, and faculty.

Course Objectives

This course seeks to advance graduate students' understanding of contemporary scientific inquiry and application in the field of environmental social science. The course will promote a community of scholarship grounded in a shared understanding of the state of the science and its application to extant environmental challenges and conservation efforts. Students will gain an appreciation for the complementary nature of written and oral scientific communication modes, as well as formal presentation versus causal, professional conversation styles. Through these interactions, the course

is designed to inspire critical self-reflection, challenge traditional assumptions, and foster creative exploration of environmental social science theory and application.

Course Format

There are 16 weeks in the semester, one of which is Spring Break. We will orient students to the course during week 1. We will have speakers during 13 weeks of the semester. Presentation titles, abstracts, and related readings (e.g., popular press article or referred manuscript) will be posted to our Moodle course site as soon as they are received from speakers. The first 5 minutes of class will involve announcements and introductions. Speakers are invited to present for 30-35 minutes, leaving 10 to 15 minutes for question and discussion sessions. We will adjourn promptly at 4:50PM. Following presentations (schedules permitting), we will encourage speakers, students, and audience members to gather off campus to engage in an optional, informal, scholarly discussion. One week this semester will be devoted to a graduate student professional development topic, to be decided collaboratively.

Course Requirements and Grading

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).

To be successful in this course, students will:

- Attend all class meetings
- Come to class having read the day's presentation title, abstract, and related reading(s)
- Bring to class three (3.0) thoughtful discussion questions based on the preparatory readings
- Actively and respectfully listen during presentations
- Ask questions during the Q&A sessions that are thoughtful, critical, and respectful
 - *Your instructors will facilitate Q&A to prioritize and distribute student questions*
- Contribute substantively during all course dialogue and activities on non-presentation days

Grades will be assigned based on the following rubric:

Description	Points
Preparation (reading and written discussion questions)	45
Active and quality participation during Q&A	45
Substantive participation during non-presenter days	10
TOTAL	100pts

Accessibility

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request reasonable accommodations for this course, contact one or both of the instructors privately to discuss specific modifications. Please be advised, we may request that you provide a verification letter from Disability Services for Students. If you have not yet registered with Disability Services, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so to efficiently coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at www.umt.edu/disability.

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](#).

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course Spring 2020

Deadline	Description	Date
To 15th instructional day	Students can drop classes on CyberBear with refund & no "W" on Transcript, last day to change to Audit	February 3, @5 PM
16th to 45th 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.	February 4 – March 24 @5 PM
Beginning 46th instructional day	Students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, switching majors, and similar reasons are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop the class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so by the end of the 45th instructional day of the semester. Requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean (in that order) so if you pursue this request, leave sufficient time to schedule meetings with each of these individuals (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.	March 25 – May 1 @5 PM

Date	Speaker	Title/Topic
<i>January 14th</i>	<i>Drs. Thomsen & Metcalf Dept. of Society and Conservation</i>	<i>Class overview and orientation</i>
January 21st	Dr. Kyle Bocinsky Crow Canyon Archaeological Center; MT Climate Office	Climate challenges and opportunities for the alpine ski industry in MT: A preliminary assessment
January 28th	Dr. Sarah Church MSU Dept. of Earth Sciences	Common ground, common water: Film as a tool for shared understanding of water resource management
February 4th	Dr. Shandin Pete Salish Kootenai College	Heart of the Monster, Buffalo Trails, and River Crossings: Intersecting ancient Salish hydrological knowledge with modern hydrological tools
February 11th	Dr. Nadia White Environmental and Natural Resource Journalism Program	The news media and climate change: Why earnest efforts to alert, inform, and rouse the public to action were so slow to gain traction
February 18th	Dr. John Chandler UM College of Business	Conservation opportunities to apply business analytics techniques
<i>February 25th</i>	<i>Drs. Thomsen & Metcalf Dept. of Society and Conservation</i>	<i>Grad student professional development</i>
March 3rd	Dr. Jill Belsky Dept. of Society and Conservation	Powers of inclusion: Challenges for environmental social scientists in Montana and beyond
March 10th	Dr. Kristal Jones JG Research & Evaluations	Empirical and epistemological challenges of social- environmental research
<i>March 17th</i>	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	<i>No meeting</i>
March 24th	Dr. Carina Wyborn Luc Hoffmann Institute	Biodiversity futures: The pragmatic, political, and philosophical dimensions of transformative ecological change
March 31st	Dr. Lauren Miller Yellowstone National Park	Social Science in Yellowstone and the National Parks
April 7th	Mr. Monte Mills, Esq. Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic; UM Law	'Third Way': The future of legal protections for sacred sites and indigenous cultures

Date	Speaker	Title/Topic
April 14th	Dr. Leigh Welling National Park Service, Alaska	Managing Protected Areas under a Changing Climate: Examples from Alaska and the Arctic
April 21st	Dr. Zack Wurtzebach Center for Landscape Conservation	Policy tools for adaptive decision