RESEARCH METHODS IN ETHNOBOTANY
EBOT 220
Fall 2014
2 Credits

Course Information:
Location: Distance Delivery

Instructor:
Kevin Jernigan  Room 113, KUC
P.O. Box 368
Bethel, Alaska, 99559
907-543-4576; 907-474-4527 (fax)
kjernigan@alaska.edu
Assistant Professor, Ethnobotany

Office Hours:
T, Th 2-3 PM, and by appointment.

Course Calendar:
This course will begin September 3rd, 2014, meeting from 5:10 to 6:10 PM, Mondays and Wednesdays and ending December 10th.

Course prerequisite:
EBOT 100, Introduction to Ethnobotany, or instructor permission

Course Description:
Research Methods includes an overview of the study of the relationships between people and plants and is designed to prepare students for field study with a comprehensive overview of research methods. The course will cover structured and non-structured interviews, plant collection, participant observation, and data analysis. It will also highlight ethical issues in ethnobotany related to intellectual property rights, benefit sharing and conservation of medicinal plants. Students will conduct their own research project in order to gain practical mastery of the course topics. The course aims to engage students in the possibilities of a young discipline, challenging pioneers of the study to make their mark and become the future of ethnobotany.

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will acquire an understanding of:
- formulating and testing ethnobotanical hypotheses
- collecting and using ethnobotanical voucher specimens
- interviewing informants
- methods of data analysis for ethnobotany
- ethical issues related to ethnobotanical research
Resources & Materials

Required Texts and Articles:

Required Texts:


Optional Text:


Note About Required Articles: Additional Articles will be posted as required readings on blackboard. They will appear under “Course Contents” and will be labeled by week number. Some examples of the articles we may be reading are given below.


Jernigan KA. Barking up the same tree: a comparison of ethnomedicine and canine ethnoveterinary medicine among the Aguaruna. J Ethnobiol Ethnomed. 2009;5(33) [http://www.ethnobiomed.com/content/5/1/33](http://www.ethnobiomed.com/content/5/1/33)


http://orgprints.org/7037/1/voglFM163.pdf

Readings from texts and supplementary materials provided by the instructors are to be read as assigned, and completed by the next class period. If reading material raises questions that you have or introduces material that you are especially interested in, we will discuss your questions or interests in more detail during the scheduled class period. **You must do the readings as they provide background for lectures, and because you will need to use the material when you prepare summary papers, and write the final exam.** From time to time throughout the semester the instructors may assign additional reading material, with these not necessarily listed in the course outline below.

**Instructional Methods:**
Lectures will be distance-delivered via the internet, using **Audioconference and blackboard**.

Students taking this class are required to have an email address, basic computer skills, and reliable computer internet access for all class sessions (this can be dialup access). Windows, MAC or Unix computer (less than 3 years old) with 64 MB RAM and sound card.

**Course Content:** See Lecture Schedule (page 8)
Evaluation & Grading: Elements of Grades for EBOT 220:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of personal research</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale (based upon the percentage of total possible points):

A 90% or higher  Distinguished Achievement
B 80 – 89%  Outstanding Achievement
C 70-79%  Satisfactory Competence (Average Performance)
D 60-69%  Below Average Performance
F less than 60%  Failure to satisfactorily meet course requirements
I Incomplete  (the university has policies that govern incomplete grades)

(http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_08-09/academics/regs1.html)

Policies & Procedures:
Time Commitment: College level science courses customarily require at least 2 to 3 hours of time outside of class (for reading, study, and preparation) for each hour spent in class. Students whose schedules cannot accommodate this level of commitment for whatever reason (work, family obligations, etc.) are unlikely to be successful in this class.

Attendance: Student attendance and participation are necessary to learning the material in this course. Each student is expected to attend each class session, to be on time, and to remain for the entire session. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and unfair to other students.

Exams and quizzes missed because of an excused absence must be taken within one week after a student’s return to school. Because of logistical difficulties, some sessions and assignments may be difficult to make up, so be sure and talk with Dr. Jernigan when you know that you will have to miss class(es).

Should school or class be officially cancelled (because of inclement weather, etc.), exams, quizzes, or assignments due during that cancellation will be given or due the next scheduled class session.
Assignments submitted late without an authorized excuse will be subject to a 10% grade reduction for each class period that the submission is delayed. **Any make up work not completed by the last day of class will receive a grade of zero (0) and this will be factored into your final grade.**

**Reading:** Students are expected to have read the material listed in the attached Lecture Schedule prior to class, and to be prepared to participate in class discussions and activities with comments, questions, and observations. Your participation is both required and highly valued, and will count as part of the final grade.

**Student Support Services:**
Fairbanks main Campus, call (907) 474-6844  
Bristol Bay Campus, call (800) 478-5109  
Chukchi Campus, call (800) 478-3402  
Interior-Aleutians Campus, call (888) 474-5207  
Kuskokwim Campus, call (800) 478-5822  
Northwest Campus, call (800) 478-2202

**Rural Student Services**
http://www.uaf.edu/ruralss/
Rural Student Services (RSS) is an academic advising department with over 35 years of experience in working with students from all over the state of Alaska. They are here to assist you in achieving student success by linking you to current information pertinent to your education, lifestyle, and goals. RSS is known for its welcoming and friendly environment. Many students find a meaningful connection at UAF through RSS. They can help you with:

* Academic Requirements  
* Registration for Classes  
* Finding Financial Aid  
* Explaining Housing Options  
* Declaring a Major  
* Career Exploration

CONTACT RSS AT:  
P.O. Box 756320, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6320  
1-888-478-1452 (Toll Free within Alaska) or (907) 474-7871  
Email us at fyrss@uaf.edu

**Math Help Line**
Contact UAFs toll-free Math Hotline for problem solving and math help. Call 866-823-6284 (1-866-UAF-MATH) during regular fall and spring semesters.

**Writing Center**
http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/
The Writing Center is a student-staffed, student-oriented service of the English Department.  
801 Gruening Bldg., P.O. Box 755720  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5720  
Phone: (907) 474-5314  
Fax: 1-800-478-5246
* The UAF Writing Center and Computer Lab offers free writing tutoring to any student in any subject via telephone and fax or over the Internet. Students can call 907-474-5314 for information on how to fax a paper and have it tutored over the telephone, or engage in an interactive Internet session. Both services are free.

**Library Services for off campus students**

[http://library.uaf.edu/offcampus](http://library.uaf.edu/offcampus)

Off-Campus Library Services is a unit set up to serve rural UAF students and faculty who do not have access to appropriate information resources in their town or village. They work in support of the College of Rural & Community Development and The Center for Distance Education and Independent Learning, and can supply your information needs for the courses you are taking. For example, if a research paper is required in the teleconference or correspondence course that you are taking, you can contact them, explain your information need, and they will send library materials to you so that you can write your paper.

Contact the Library at:
Off-Campus Services, Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
310 Tanana Loop, PO Box 756800
Fairbanks, Alaska USA 99775-6800
Phone: 1-800-478-5348 Email: fyddl@uaf.edu

**For more off campus help go to:**
[http://www.uaf.edu/library/instruction/ls101/other/Distance_Resources.html](http://www.uaf.edu/library/instruction/ls101/other/Distance_Resources.html)

**Disability Services:** The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. State that you will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities:

**UAF Disability Services for Distance Students:**

UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with the College of Rural Alaska's (CRA) campuses and UAFs Center for Distance Education (CDE). Disability Services, a part of UAFs Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services.

If you believe you are eligible, please visit [http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html](http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html) on the web or contact a student affairs staff person at your nearest local campus. You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks Campus at (907) 474-7043, fydso@uaf.edu.

**- General Information –**

**Policies of the College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD) are summarized in the Fall 2008 Schedule of Courses. Policies of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) are summarized in the 2008-2009 Catalog.**

**Student Behavior:** Students at this institution are expected to contribute to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and respectful of others. Consequently, they are required to behave in accordance with acknowledged societal norms and are prohibited from engaging in
behavior that is distracting to themselves or to others. Inappropriate behavior will result minimally in being asked to leave class immediately. Refrain from talking or making noise during lectures, laboratory sessions, and exams, although all contributions to and with the class are encouraged, with participation highly valued as part of your final grade.

**Study Skills:** This class requires good reading and study skills. If a student feels that he or she is falling behind, he or she should contact the instructor immediately and we will work with you directly. Issues of this type seldom resolve unless specific measures are taken in a timely fashion.

**Harassment:** CRA and UAF have specific policies regarding harassment, and harassment will not be tolerated. Anthropology students address subjects that are considered to be delicate by many individuals and cultures. Both students and faculty are expected to act and speak with sensitivity and respect.

**Use of College Equipment:** Students are expected to use their utmost care to assure the continued availability of campus resources.

**Drop/Withdrawal/Incomplete:** Ceasing attendance does not activate the drop, withdrawal, or incomplete grade process. The student must submit the appropriate forms for each of these processes by the published deadlines to end enrolment in this class. Failure to complete and submit the appropriate forms may result in a failing grade for this course on the student’s permanent transcript. Deadlines for drop and withdrawal are listed below. All paperwork must be completed and submitted by these dates. Be aware that the college has specific policies and procedures for the assignment of incomplete grades (http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_08-09/academics/regs1.html).

**Safety:** Any accidents or injuries are to be reported to the instructor immediately.
COURSE OUTLINE: LECTURE TOPICS BY WEEK

Please Note: Readings are assigned to be read by Monday of the following week. The order of activities is subject to change depending on factors such as guest speaker availability.

Week 1:
9/3 Introductions. Purpose, and objectives of this course. Overview of syllabus and class requirements.
Read: Alexiades Ch. 4, Chs. 5-6 (optional), Martin Ch. 2

Week 2:
9/8 Interdisciplinary overview of ethnobotany and ethnoecology
9/10 Overview of botanical methods: Preparation and use of voucher specimens
Homework 1 assigned
Read: Alexiades Ch. 2, Martin Ch. 8

Week 3:
9/15 Ethical collecting, plant conservation, resource conservation, and land ownership/policies (elder guest panelists)
9/17 Overview of ethnobotanical/ecological methods, examples of research projects from Alaska and elsewhere. Quantitative vs. qualitative Ethnobotany
Homework 1 due
Read: Alexiades Chs. 1,3 Martin Ch. 1

Week 4:
9/22 Overview of ethnobotanical/ecological methods, examples of research projects from Alaska and elsewhere. Quantitative vs. qualitative Ethnobotany (continued)
Research topic due
9/24 Conducting a literature review
Homework 2 assigned
Read: Martin Ch. 4, readings on blackboard

Week 5:
9/29 Research design and hypothesis testing
10/1 Research design and hypothesis testing (continued)
Homework 2 due
Read: Martin skim Ch. 3, readings on blackboard
Week 6:
10/6 Research design and hypothesis testing (continued)

10/8 Intellectual property rights, prior informed consent and other ethical issues
(elder guest panelists)
Read: Martin Ch. 5

Week 7:
10/13 Intellectual property rights, prior informed consent and other ethical issues (continued)

10/15 Selecting informants
Homework 3 assigned
Read: Alexiades Ch. 10, Martin Ch. 6

Week 8:
10/20 Formal and informal interviewing techniques

10/22 Formal and informal interviewing techniques (continued)
Homework 3 due
Read: Martin Ch. 7, readings on blackboard

Week 9:
10/27 Formal and informal interviewing techniques (continued)

10/29 Using freelists, pile sorts and triads in ethnobotanical research.
In-class time will be devoted to practicing these methods.
Homework 4 assigned
Read: Alexiades Ch. 7 (optional), readings on blackboard

Week 10:
11/3 Cultural social history. gathering ethnobotanical data from social history, life histories, oral traditions and stories

11/5 Cultural social history. gathering ethnobotanical data from social history, life histories, oral traditions and stories (continued)
Homework 4 due
Read: Alexiades Chs. 8&9, Martin Ch. 8,

Week 11:
11/10 Other research methods

11/12 Ethnobotany data entering and analysis, including appropriate statistical analysis
Read: readings on blackboard
Week 12:
11/17 Ethnobotany data entering and analysis, including appropriate statistical analysis (continued)

11/19 Ethnobotany data entering and analysis, including appropriate statistical analysis (continued)
Read: readings on blackboard

Week 13:
11/24 Use of cultural consensus models

11/26 Student research presentations

Week 14:
12/1 Student research presentations
take-home final assigned

12/3 Student research presentations

Week 15:
12/8 Extra time for catch-up and guest speakers

12/10 take-home final due