



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

University of Alaska Fairbanks

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Syllabus

TITLE: Field Course of Natural Resource Management Complexity in Alaska

NUMBER: NRM 290

CREDITS: 2

PREREQUISITES: Permission of instructor

LOCATION: Field

MEETING TIME: May 4 to May 13

COURSE TYPE: Lecture and Practicum (Field course)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter Fix

OFFICE LOCATION: 323 O'Neill

OFFICE HOURS: T & Th 3 – 4:30 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 474-6926

EMAIL ADDRESS: pjfix@alaska.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description:

A 10-day field course examining ecological and societal factors that create challenges to sustainable management of Alaska's natural resources. Topics include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, wildland fire response and management, energy development, recreation, and tourism.

Additional course description:

This 10-day field course travels the road system in interior and southcentral Alaska, including the Kenai Peninsula. Each day of the course consists of interactions with natural resource professionals, including independent agricultural producers, state and federal land management agency personnel, oil and gas industry personnel, and researchers in various capacities. Specific stops vary, but might include agricultural operations, fish hatcheries, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the Swanson River oil field, the Chugach National Forest, and Denali National Park.

COURSE GOALS

The goals of the course are to:

- Introduce students to the various natural resources sectors of the Alaska economy
- Provide an overview of potential careers in natural resources
- Examine regional differences in natural resource issues
- Provide in-person observation of the issues
- Provide an overview of the factors that create complexity in managing natural resources

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completion of the course, students will

- Identify and describe major natural resource segments of the Alaska economy
- Identify and describe ecological and social conditions common to myriad natural resource issues, and those conditions unique to specific issues
- Accurately summarize opposing viewpoints regarding the specific natural resource issues examined during the course
- Critique the foundations of opposing viewpoints, identifying those linked to a scientific basis vs values
- Provide novel solutions to the issues discussed

COURSE READINGS/MATERIALS

N/A

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE

This is a field course with many stops outside. Students must be prepared to spend time outside in potentially inclement weather.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is a field course in which we will visit with professionals in various natural resources management industries/agencies. The speakers will present their role in natural resources management and issues they face. Each evening we will have group discussion that: 1) recaps the presentations of the day, 2) critiques the issues discussed, and 3) provides novel solutions to the issues discussed that day. A journal of course stops and a research paper are required.

COURSE CALENDAR

See attached.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance throughout the entire field course is required. Participation in shared duties (e.g., cooking, loading vehicles, cleaning lodging facilities) is required. Respect of student's viewpoints is required as is respectful and courteous interactions with other students.

EVALUATION POLICIES

The course grade is determined by five factors

1. Participation in logistics (e.g., cooking, loading vehicles, cleaning). In professional field work, logistics are critical to successfully meeting goals and may be a component of employee evaluation. This course is no different; speakers have arranged their time around this course – at a cost to them – it is critical we keep to our schedule. Past experience with field situations could even be a job interview question asked of you. As such, your professionalism in assisting with course logistics will be a component of the course evaluation, counting as 10% of the grade. Evaluation will be based three factors: assigned duties (50%), other tasks (30%), and punctuality (20%).

	A	B	C	D	F
Assigned duties	Takes leadership, no prompting necessary	Leadership but prompting necessary	Completes tasks, but prompting necessary, lack of leadership	Minimal completion of assigned tasks	No participation
Other tasks	Consistently assists with tasks	Inconsistent assistance	Minimal assistance	Minimal assistance	No assistance
Punctuality	Always ready on time, no prompting necessary, does not cause delays	Always ready on time, some prompting needed.	Significant prompting needed, actions impact group (needing to wait, pack at last minute, etc.)	Seriously impedes the ability to stay on schedule	Consistently causes delays

2. Professionalism: 10% of grade

Evaluation will be based on two equally weighted factors, interaction with speakers and interaction with students.

	A	B	C	D	F
Interaction with speakers	Respectful, attentive, asks questions*	Respectful, attentive, minimal questions*	Occasional lack of attention, does not ask questions*	Often inattentive, irrelevant comments /questions	Almost always inattentive
Interaction with students	Respectful towards other students	Respectful to students	Occasional disruption	Disruptive with students, complaints from students	Many disruptions and complaints

*Recognizes some differences in personalities, some students might ask questions one-one with speaker or show other indications of engagement with speaker/topic.

3. Participation in evening discussion: 20% of grade

Evaluation will be based on two equally weighted factors.

	A	B	C	D	F
Recap of stops/issues	Comprehensive and accurate	Accurate, but some gaps	Some errors in recap	Inaccurate, factual errors	No participation
Examination of issues	Exhibits critical thinking, examines multiple sides of issue	Thoughtful, multiple perspectives not thoroughly incorporated	Simplistic explanations, multiple perspectives not incorporated	Simplistic, mostly irrelevant	No participation

4. Journal of stops: 25% of grade, due May 18

Details provided in a separate document.

Evaluation will be based on recap of stops (40%), linkage among stops (20%) personal perspective (30%), and writing/organization (10%):

	A	B	C	D	F
Recap of stops	Comprehensive and accurate	Accurate, but some gaps	Some errors in recap	Inaccurate, factual errors	Missing a majority of stops
Linkage among stops	Multiple linkages, novel observations	Limited linkages, but novel	Few linkages and obvious	Few linkages, but not relevant	No linkages
Personal perspective	Complexity in thought	Limited in complexity	Simplistic	Minimal perspectives, simplistic	No perspectives
Writing/presentation and organization	Adds to presentation	Does not detract	At times impedes presentation	Detracts from presentation	Seriously detracts

5. Research paper: 35% of grade, due May 22

Details provided in a separate document.

Evaluation will be based on selection of the topic (10%), literature review/summary (40%), synthesis of perspectives (30%), and writing/organization (20%):

	A	B	C	D	F
Selection of topic	Novel and highly relevant;	Relevant, some creativity	Lack of creativity	Limited scope and relevance	Completely irrelevant
Literature review/summary	Multiple, credible sources; accurate summary and synthesis of previous work; provides clear description of current status of topic	Limited sources, but credible; mostly accurate summary and synthesis of previous work; provides description of current status	Limited sources, questionable credibility; current status of topic is not clear	No sources cited; limited understanding/ description of current status of topic	Section missing from paper
Synthesis of perspectives	Accurate, multiple perspectives	Limited integration of perspectives	Lack of integration of perspectives	Only one, limited perspective presented.	Section missing from paper.
Writing / organization	Adds to presentation, free of errors, appropriate citations	Does not detract, mostly error free, some citation errors	Multiple errors, impedes presentation, citation errors	Errors and organization seriously impedes presentation, but main thesis can be discerned	Not possible to discern thesis of paper

C– (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to [Student Code of Conduct](#).

EXPLANATION OF NB/I/W GRADES

This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades *The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.*

Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:

"The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort. Failure to submit assignments in a timely manner may result in faculty-initiated Withdrawal from the course, which can result in a **W** on your transcript.

EFFORT AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

This course is 1 credit lecture, which requires 14 hours of lecture and approximately 26 hours of work outside the lecture, and 1 credit of practicum, which requires between 40 to 80 hours of work. This course consists of 9 days of, on average, 4 hours of interaction with speakers, 3.75 hours of driving, 1 hour of discussion, and 1 hour of shared duties. One day is a free day with 1 hour of discussion. In addition, you will spend approximately 5 - 10 hours on your journal and 10 - 15 hours on your paper. The credit hour distribution is derived from counting 14 hours of interaction with speakers as "lecture," the remaining interactions with speakers as practicum (22 hours) 1 hour of driving time per day as practicum (as some of the driving examines the resource management issues discussed; 9 total hours), and the discussion and shared duties as practicum (20 hours), for a total of 51 hours of practicum.

STUDENT PROTECTIONS AND SERVICES STATEMENT

Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services, etc. to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site: www.uaf.edu/handbook

SUPPORT SERVICES

Go to the Student Handbook (www.uaf.edu/handbook) for things like: academic advising, tutoring, library and academic support, disability services, computing and technology, veteran and military support, academic complaint and appeals, late withdrawals, “classroom” behavior expectations and more.

Effective Communication

Students who have difficulties with writing are strongly encouraged to get help from:

- [UAF English’s Department’s Writing Center](#) (907.474.5314, Gruening 8th floor)

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination.