
Syllabus, spring 2022

TITLE: Resource Management Planning

NUMBER: NRM 630

CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITES: Senior standing

LOCATION: Synchronous online, lectures via Zoom.

MEETING TIME: T & R 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

COURSE TYPE: Lecture

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter J. Fix

OFFICE LOCATION: 323 O'Neill

OFFICE HOURS: Tues. & Thurs 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

TELEPHONE: (907) 474-6926

EMAIL ADDRESS: pjfix@alaska.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description

Application of planning and conflict resolution principles to natural resources management. Examines plans prepared in response to current Alaska resource disputes, including wolf, brown bear, boreal forest and recreation river plans. Includes public involvement, consensus building, the basic steps in the planning process and resource dispute simulations. Review resource management plans and develop plans for a local resource management issue.

Additional course description

The course will examine the complexity of resource management planning; steps to the planning process such as identifying problems, developing measurable objectives, evaluating solutions, and selecting a final solution; how scale/scope impacts the planning process; and differences in planning across federal and state agencies.

COURSE GOALS

The course will provide students with knowledge of the following topics:

- Steps/best practices in the planning process
- Developing indicators and standards to evaluate whether planning goals are being met
- Planning protocol followed by specific agencies

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will have acquired knowledge/skills to:

- Speak the language of a natural resource planner
 - Adapt to the planning protocol of myriad agencies
 - Evaluate a resource management plan
 - Explain the differences in the planning protocol of different land management agencies
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COURSE READINGS/MATERIALS

Required text: Yoe, C. (2013). *Introduction to natural resource planning*. New York: CRC Press.

Additional readings will be assigned, and are noted in the class schedule. These readings will be posted to Canvas.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE

Students must have regular access to a computer and the Internet to access materials in Canvas. Students will be expected to download course material as well as upload assignments.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The class consists of 3 credits of lecture (i.e., 3 hours per week). The lecture sections will be based on course readings; but will rely on class discussion. It is expected you come to class having read the material and are prepared to discuss the material.

The first three quarters of the class will follow material from the text. Lectures will recap the material, but it is expected you have read the material before class. Thus, the majority of the lecture will be devoted to 1) discussing the points made in the text (i.e., class discussion), and 2) applying the principles discussed in the book to the case study developed for the in-class exercises (i.e., listed in syllabus as in-class exercise).

The remaining class time will be spent examining the planning process of different agencies and examining case studies.

There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. Both exams are open book; the final exam will consist of an evaluation of a management plan.

A folder with completed plans will be posted to Canvas. We will examine those plans with respect to the principles presented in the text.

Expectations for 600-level course

NRM 630 is stacked with NRM 430. NRM 630 follows the same structure as NRM 430, the additional expectations for the graduate course are as follows:

- Higher expectations for critical thinking (critiquing readings, synthesizing information, suggesting new applications). This may require assignments to be slightly longer.
- Expanded use of citations when appropriate (finding additional support, or opposing views, in the literature)
- Four additional assignments
- An end-of-semester research paper
- Additional questions on exams

COURSE CALENDAR

The course calendar will evolve as we cover the topics. The time spent on any one topic will be adjusted based on class discussion.

Dates	Topics Covered
Week 1 1/11	Course Introduction
1/13	Introduction to scenario for in-class exercises - Teams & Setting Rules - Ch. 2
Week 2 1/18	The Planning Process - Ch. 3 - Assignment 1 & in class discussion: Comparison of plans
1/20	The planning process across natural resource management agencies NRM 630: Find and summarize peer-reviewed article discussing the planning process
Week 3 1/25	Decision Context - Ch. 4 - In class exercise 1: Develop problems, opportunities, and constraints
1/27	Decision Context (Cont.) In-class exercise 2: Develop criteria
Week 4 2/1	Gather Evidence - Ch. 5 - Introduction to scenarios
2/3	Gather Evidence (Cont.) In-class exercise 3: Information gaps, plan for gathering evidence, scenarios
Week 5 2/8	Public Involvement - Ch. 10 - In-class exercise 4: Develop public involvement plan NRM 630: Critique of different public involvement processes. Find process of your interest: current process (board of fisheries, NEPA process, peer-reviewed study, agency report, etc).
2/10	Formulate Solutions Ch. 6
Week 6 2/15	Formulate Solutions (Cont.) - Management measures - Assignment 2: Management measures
2/17	Uncertainty - Ch. 12 - Discuss management measures assignment NRM 630: Find an example of indicators (in scholarly literature) and critique.

Week 7 2/22	Uncertainty (Cont.) In-class exercise 5: Identify sources of uncertainty
2/24	Guest Speaker, R. Bryant Wright, Trails Coordinator, FNSB Parks & Recreation FNSB Trails Plan
Week 8 3/1	NEPA: Potential guest speaker Readings TBA
3/3	Work on mid-term exam (no class) Mid-term exam due by 3/4 @ 5 p.m. NRM 630: Additional questions related to evaluating the planning process
Week 9 3/8 & 3/10	Spring Break – no class!
Week 10 3/15	Scenario Planning - Ch. 13 - Readings TBA - Assignment 3: Evaluation of Readings
3/17	Scenario Planning (Cont.) In-class exercise 6: Presentation of scenarios
Week 11 3/22	Scenario Planning: Guest speaker Nancy Fresco, SNAP Network Coordinator, CIFAR Associate Director, Assistant Professor, UAF NRM 630: Find scholarly articles regarding scenario planning and critique
3/24	Evaluate solutions - Ch. 7 - Assignment 4: Criteria and Scenarios
Week 12 3/29	Evaluate Solutions In-class exercise: 7 Evaluation of solutions
3/31	Compare Solutions - Ch. 8 - Assignment 5: Comparison process
Week 13 4/5	BLM Central Alaska Plan: guest speaker Chel Ethun, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, Fairbanks District Office, Bureau of Land Management Readings TBA
4/7	Compare Solutions In-class exercise 8: Comparing solutions
Week 14 4/12	Make a Decision - Ch. 9 - Steps to selecting a solution
4/14	Make a Decision - Ch. 9 - Class discussion: Final decision

Week 15 4/19	Planning in Federal Agencies • Readings TBA • Assignment 7: Comparison of planning in federal agencies
4/21	• Discussion of planning in Federal Agencies • NRM 630: Research paper applying planning principles to your research project (or if not applicable, select a project)
April 27	Final exam due @ 5 p.m.

COURSE POLICIES

This course will adhere to the following policies.

- Points, equivalent to one letter grade per day late, will be deducted for late assignments (unless arrangements have been made, see below).
- Due dates for assignments can be adjusted and exams can be rescheduled/made up for legitimate reasons (illness, family issues, UAF athletic travel, conference travel) if prior arrangements are made. If absolutely unforeseen circumstances occur and prior arrangements have not been made, exceptions might be granted on a case by case basis.
- It is expected that you attend all lectures, complete all assignments, and participate in class discussion.

EVALUATION POLICIES

Rubrics will be provided for the assignments, in-class exercises, and attendance.

Plus and minus grades will be used. Grades will utilize absolute score. The components of the final grade and their contribution to the overall grade are as follows. Note, the weights will be assigned to score within each component of the grade; thus, the total points are not reflective of the component's contribution to the final score.

Weight for final grade ¹		Requirements for letter grade		
Assignments	40%	A + > 96 ³	C+ 77 to 79	F < 60
In-class exercises	30%	A 93 to 96	C 73 to 76	
Class participation ²	5%	A- 90 to 92	C- 70 to 72	
Exams	25%	B+ 87 to 89 B 83 to 86 B- 80 to 82	D+ 67 to 69 D 63 to 66 D- 60 to 62	

¹Weights differ from NRM430 and reflect the additional assignments and higher standards for critical thinking on the assignments.

²Class participation will reflect attendance and contribution to the class discussions, including in-class exercises.

³These numbers represent percentages.

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.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME

If you email me with a question during weekday daytime hours I will try to reply promptly. However, I have meetings and other constraints that might delay my response time. Although I do check email and respond to students in the evening and over the weekend, occasionally I purposely do not check email during those times. If I know I will have limited contact during the week (travel, other commitments), I will let you know. My goal is to grade assignments and exams within a week.

EFFORT AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

This is a 3 credit lecture course. The weekly contact hours and student effort requirements for a traditional face to face class are 3 hours of lecture and 6 hours of student work outside of the lecture/lab (9 total hours per week).

STUDENT PROTECTIONS STATEMENT

UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site:
<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academicsregulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

See 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.

UAF eCampus Student Services helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eCampus Student Services staff at 907.455.2060 or toll free 1.800.277.8060 or contact staff directly with our [directory listing](#).

UAF Help Desk

Go to <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/> to see about current network outages and technology news.

For technical questions, contact the Help Desk at:

- e-mail at helpdesk@alaska.edu
- phone: 450.8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1.800.478.8226 (outside of Fairbanks)

Effective Communication

Students who have difficulties with oral presentations and/or writing are strongly encouraged to get help from:

- [UAF Department of Communication's Speaking Center](#) (907.474.5470, speak@uaf.edu)
- [UAF English's Department's Writing Center](#) (907.474.5314, Gruening 8th floor)
- [CTC's Learning Center](#) (604 Barnette Street, 907.455.2860).

COVID-19 statement: Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf?authuser=0>

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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