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EVST 594.05: Graduate Seminar - Conservation Strategies

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Course Description: Conservation Strategies is a practical course designed to acquaint graduate students with myriad rationales and methods for conserving land, water, biological diversity and other natural resources. The course explores the wheres and hows of resource depletion and conservation with emphasis on the Rocky Mountain west. Guest speakers from public agencies and private land trusts discuss policies, tools, tactics, failures and successes----giving students an inside look at the structure, the work, the methods and the jobs within the conservation field.

Required Texts: There are none. The instructor will provide a data CD for each student comprised of text information from a variety of sources. In addition, each week the instructor will provide required reading material in the form of hand-outs. These must be read in order to understand and be conversant in the topics covered by the hand-outs for the next week’s class.

Course instructor and contact information:
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Late Drop Policy: The late-drop petition begins on the 31st day of instruction, i.e. 31 days after the first class meeting. In other words, students have six weeks to determine whether they want to remain in the class. Alternatively, students can drop the class by logging on to Cyberbear and/or by a drop slip respectively----no questions asked.

Grades: Traditional letter grades A through F are given. Grades are based upon class attendance, student participation in class discussion, the occasional pop quiz, individual and/or group special homework assignments, and the final exam.

Outcomes and assessment: The class examines a number of environmental issues such as the loss of biodiversity, global warming, human population and distribution, growth and sprawl, habitat fragmentation, fossil fuel depletion, and the interrelatedness of these issues. A basic understanding of pan-global environmental problems is necessary to then understand the role that conservation plays in ameliorating these problems. Students’ grasp of the larger issues will be ‘tested’ on a weekly basis via class discussions. Acquaintance with practical conservation strategies will come through weekly readings, homework assignments, guest speakers, internet research and reports, etc. Given that the class meets only once weekly, perfect attendance is de rigueur. Student absence from any class session must be with the advance consent of the instructor. A final exam, typically an exercise in applying practical conservation strategies learned during the semester, will assess students’ analytical skills and abilities to synthesize the concepts and methods learned in the course.