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EVST 495.01: Special Topics - Applied Ecology Field Study

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EVST 495 (later 460) Applied Ecology Field Study

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Vicki Watson, 101 Botany, 243-5153, <Vicki.watson@umontana.edu>, office hours 10-12 Wed (usually) Than, M-4 Rankin, (messages243-6273), <Nathaniel.Robinson@umontana.edu>; office hrs = lab time + appt
Class meets Wednesday from 2-5pm in Natural Science 102A.

Purpose: To gain experience in the design and interpretation of field studies in applied ecology;
To provide low cost ecological studies to the community.

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: EVST 360 or FOR 330 or Bio 340 (or other approved ecology course)

References: Cox General Ecology Lab Manual –all read chapters 1-4 (& rest as needed for your project).
Brower et al. Field & Lab methods for General Ecology

Week	Topics Overview & Readings	Reading &/or Work Due
8-27	Course goals/mechanics/project ideas	<i>Cox ch 1(Designing an Ecological Study)</i>
9-3	Clark Fork Sampling	<i>Cox Ch 2 (Exp design), Ch 3 (Sampling design)</i>
9-10	Terrestrial Field methods demo (dictated by projects)	handout on QA/QC, content of proposals
9-15 Mon	Stream methods demo (dictated by projects)	
9-17 Wed	Meet with Watson to discuss draft proposal	<u>Proposal due F 9-19</u>
9-24	Lake methods demo	360 Q1 due F 9-26
10-1	Teams do field work	<i>Cox Ch 5(Literature Research)</i>
10-8	Organization of primary research papers	<i>Cox Ch4(Statistics); 360 Q2 due</i>
10-15	Work on draft intro, methods, bib	<u>Draft Intro, Methods, Biblio due F 10-17</u>
10-22	Finish field work, OR training in lab work as needed	360 Q3 due 10-24
10-29	Lab work as needed	<u>Outline of rest of paper due F 10-31</u>
11-5	Data analysis & presentation	360 Q4 due F 11-7
11-12	Teams work on paper	Teams meet with Watson
11-19	Teams work on paper	<u>First draft paper due 11-19; 360 Q5 due 11-21</u>
11-25 T	Watson available to meet with teams to discuss first draft of paper	
12-3	Overview of what has been learned; evaluations;	Teams meet with Watson; Bonus due 12-5
12-10	from 1:10-3:10pm Team presentations,	<u>FINAL TEAM PAPER due 12-10</u>

Grade based on percentage of 500 points earned

HOW to earn points (maximum possible points shown):

- 400 pts Team Research project: approved proposal (50pts), 3 progress reports (30pts); drafts & outlines & bibliographies (see below), paper 150, presentation 100+
- 100 pts for team work (group divides the points among group members)

HOW to lose points:

- Leaving mess in lab (cleanup after yourself, discard samples when done; recycle containers).
- Taking equipment without checking it out: taking equipment reserved by others.
- Returning equipment late; not reporting equipment problems/malfunctions.
- Not contributing to your team's work. At the end of the semester, all team members will evaluate the role of all team members in the group's effort by allocating 100 pts among the group.

Late work – Assignments lose half their value after 5pm Friday of week due.

Assignments lose rest of their value at 5pm the following Friday.

Note: Being late does not restart the clock for later assignments.

SAVE a copy of all assignments & comments in a portfolio for check at end of semester.

Note – All drafts (proposal, intro, approach sections, outlines, draft paper) should be double spaced.

Final paper –single spaced within paragraphs & citations; double between.

Unfortunately, there is not time to rewrite & regrade assignments.

Many of the assignments ARE revisions of the previous assignments.

I need at least one week to comment on assignments. Do not get behind or you will have to start skipping assignments since you won't get the previous one back in time to guide writing the next.

Graduate increment- graduate students serve as research team managers and report editors. They must approve all team reports before these are given to instructor. Some teams will not have graduate student members, and this will be taken into consideration when evaluating their work.