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### HONR 391.83: Special Topics - Timberline to Tidepool: Water in Montana and the Columbia Basin

Robert S. Stubblefield

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**Timberline to Tidepool:  
Water in Montana and the Columbia Basin  
HONR 391.83 (75925)**

**Class Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 4:00 – 7:00pm

**Class Meeting Location:** DHC 119

**Moodle:** <https://moodle.umt.edu/course/view.php?id=44613>

**Instructors**

Robert Stubblefield, Professor of Creative Writing

Contact: [robert.stubblefield@umontana.edu](mailto:robert.stubblefield@umontana.edu)

Office Location: LA 231

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00 pm, Tuesdays 2:00-5:00 pm, Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 pm,

Thursdays by appointment only 2:00-4:00 pm

Kylla Benes, Director of Scholarships & Fellowships

Contact: [kylla.benes@umontana.edu](mailto:kylla.benes@umontana.edu); 406-243-5241

Office Location: DHC 116 or on Zoom

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Course Description**

Water is the theme of an exciting new interdisciplinary honors course focused on ‘the elixir of life’. This course will feature experts with perspectives from hydrology, geosciences, history, politics, economics, environmental sciences, sociology, law, literature, and the arts. Students will also examine complex contemporary issues relating to water. Special field experiences will include time on the Clark Fork river and a weekend at the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Articulate an interdisciplinary understanding of and appreciation for water’s foundational role in human, biophysical systems, cultural, ecological, economic, historical, and political systems.
2. Articulate an interdisciplinary understanding of how global climate change is altering water in the environment and society.
3. Read, write and discuss historical and contemporary water issues, including global climate change, in Montana and beyond.
4. Actively engage in an immersive educational experience and hands-on exploration of water to include lake and river systems, and diverse perspectives including tribal, municipal, agricultural, and others.

5. Be equipped with knowledge, insights and skills to allow them to engage water issues and policy discussions as informed citizens.

## **Readings**

To be announced; you should come prepared each week to discuss assigned readings. Also see student teaching project.

## **Major Assignments (% of Final Grade)**

*Weekly Reflections* – Due one week after each class, write a concise reflection on what you learned and the questions you have after each meeting. 250-350 words (15%)

*End of Unit Essay* – Connect the dots, what has changed in your thinking, interests and actions around the topics covered in the unit? 750-1000 words (35%)

*Pedagogy Project* – A group pedagogy project centered around the theme(s) of a book of your choosing. See more information, including the book list on Moodle. (40%)

*Participation* – Come prepared and participate in active discussion each week (10%)

## **Grading**

Grades will be earned according to the following standard of excellence:

A 93-100%; A- 90-92%; B+ 87-89%; B 83-86%; B- 80-82%; C+ 77-79%; C 70-76%; D 60-69%, F <60%

Add/Drop, Change Course Grade Mode Date: September 20 (before 5pm); after this date add/drop requires instructor approval and a fee of \$10, dropped courses appear as a 'W' on transcripts

## **Safety for In Person Instruction**

- Mask use is required within the classroom.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. Please notify your professors at your earliest ability to make arrangements.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seat seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.

### **Accessibility Statement**

If you are a student with a disability and wish to request reasonable accommodations for this course, contact me privately to discuss the specific modifications. Please be advised, I may request that you provide a verification letter from the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you have not yet registered with ODE, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the ODE website at [www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability).

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Remember, your integrity is your most prized possession. Don't sell it out, or give it away. I don't care if 'everyone's doing it'. In short: don't cheat. Davidson Honors College students are expected to abide by the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All University of Montana students must familiarize themselves with the [Student Conduct Code](#). The Student Conduct Code embodies and promotes honesty, integrity, accountability, rights, and responsibilities associated with constructive citizenship in our academic community at the University of Montana. This Code describes expected standards of behavior for all students, including academic conduct and general conduct, and it outlines students' rights, responsibilities, and the campus processes for adjudicating alleged violations.

### **Additional Resources**

UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 12 to 5 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to 5 PM. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email [umpantry@mso.umt.edu](mailto:umpantry@mso.umt.edu), visit the [UM Food Pantry website](#) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um\_pantry on Instagram).

### **Cultural Leave Policy**

UM has a Cultural and Ceremonial Leave Policy: "Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic

calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor."

**Schedule – Subject to Change**

Date	Topic & Presenter(s)	Reading(s)	Assignments Due
<b>Unit 1: SCIENCE</b>			
1-Sep	<u>Topic:</u> Introduction to the Course; Introduction to limnological, riverine, and riparian terminology, habitats <u>Presenter(s):</u> Kylla & Robert	None	None
8-Sep @ Milltown	<u>Topic:</u> Wetland Amphibians & Milltown Dam Removal. <u>Presenters:</u> Erim Gomez & Milltown Ranger		Week 1 Reflection
15-Sep	<u>Topic:</u> Ecohydrology of the West <u>Presenter:</u> Marco Maneta		Week 2 Reflection
22-Sep	<u>Topic:</u> Fisheries <u>Presenter:</u> TBD		Week 3 Reflection
29-Sep	<u>Topic:</u> Hydrology; Drought & Agriculture <u>Presenters:</u> Nick Silverman & Laurie Yung		Week 4 Reflection
WEEK-END @FLBS	<b>Friday, October 1—Sunday, October 3: Flathead Lake Biological Station/Glacier Park Field Experience</b>		
<b>Unit 2: HUMANS</b>			
6-Oct	<u>Topic:</u> Tribal Policy and Perspectives on Water <u>Presenter:</u> Casey Ryan		Week 5 Reflection
13-Oct	<u>Topic:</u> US Water Policy <u>Presenter:</u> Brian Chaffin		Week 6 Reflection
20-Oct	<u>Topic:</u> Municipal Water Issues <u>Presenter:</u> Mayor Engen		Week 7 Reflection & Science Unit Essay

27-Oct @ Kettlehouse (Bonner)	<u>Topic:</u> Water Quality & Recreation <u>Presenter:</u> Chad Looney & Libby Metcalf		Week 8 Reflection
<b>Unit 3: ART</b>			
3-Nov	<u>Topic:</u> Literature of Water <u>Presenter:</u> Robert Stubblefield		Week 9 Reflection
10-Nov	<u>Topic:</u> Water in Film <u>Presenter:</u> Annick Smith		Week 10 Reflection
17-Nov	<u>Topic:</u> Water in Music <u>Presenter:</u> Holly Riley		Week 11 Reflection & Humans Unit Essay
24-Nov	No Class—Student Travel Day.		Week 12 Reflection
1-Dec	<u>Topic:</u> Visual Art <u>Presenters:</u> Matt Simms & Rafael Chacon		Week 13 Reflection
8-Dec	<u>Topic:</u> Watershed Education <u>Presenter:</u> Dalit Guscio		Week 14 Reflection
15-Dec	<i>All faculty invited</i> Final Class Meeting. Creative/Critical Pedagogy Projects		Group Teaching Module; Week 15 Reflection; & Art Unit Essay