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FORS 130.01: Natural Resources Field Techniques

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Instructors: Dr. Alex Metcalf
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                          alex.metcalf@umontana.edu; 406-243-6673
                          Office hours: Thursday 3:00PM to 4:00PM **& by appointment**

Meeting Times & Locations:

Five Friday Meetings (Dates TBA), 1:10PM to 4:00PM in FOR 301

Weekend Trip: Beginning Friday, (Date TBA) at 1:10PM in FOR 301
             Ending Sunday, at 1:00PM

Credits: Two (2.0)

Location: FOR 301; Lubrecht Experimental Forest

Course Objectives: This special topics course is focused on developing natural resources field techniques through experiential learning at the College's Lubrecht Experimental Forest. Our objective is to provide classroom lecture and experiences at the College Forest that introduce students to orienteering, map reading, GPS, tree measurements, fire and fuels management, recreation, human dimensions, hydrology, wood products, and the careers possible with a CFC degree. Lessons will be conducted in coordination with Lubrecht Managing Forester Frank Maus, CFC faculty, UM Alumni and other natural resource professionals from around Montana.

Required Text: None

Requirements: Students must attend all class sessions, unless pre-approved. During the Friday field trips and weekend at Lubrecht we will often be **outside**. Students must come prepared with proper clothing given the expected weather forecast (e.g., boots, warm clothes, hats/gloves, rain gear). Temperatures can be significantly cooler at Lubrecht and students should plan accordingly. We will also be "camping" at Lubrecht. Students are responsible for any overnight gear/toiletries, etc., including sleeping bags. Food will be provided – students must inform instructors and Lubrecht staff of any food allergies/intolerances. All necessary equipment will be also provided; students are responsible for wearing/using all safety gear at all times (e.g., hard hat).

Course grading: This course is offered for traditional letter grade – it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

This course will be graded on the following grading scale:
93-100 (A), 90-92 (A-),
87-89 (B+), 83-86(B), 80-82 (B-),
77-79 (C+), 73-76 (C), 70-72 (C-),
60-69 (D),
<60 (F)

Grades will be assigned based on the following rubric:

Attendance/Participation: 40%
Group Exercises: 40%
Final Paper: 20%

Accessibility: This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at http://life.umt.edu/dss.

Student Conduct Code:

Students with learning disabilities or disadvantages needing special dispensation or assistance, please see me during the first week of class. All course activities are governed by the Student Conduct Code, which embodies the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, human rights, and individual responsibility. It is your responsibility to read, understand and adhere to the student conduct code, available at: (http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).