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NRSM 110.01: First Year Seminar in Environmental Science and Sustainability

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Recommended Citation

Yung, Laurie A. and Colman, Benjamin P., "NRSM 110.01: First Year Seminar in Environmental Science and Sustainability" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 1333.

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SYLLABUS – NRSM 110 – Fall 2022

First Year Seminar in Environmental Science and Sustainability

Professors:

Laurie Yung
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Office hours: Fall semester by appointment only; please email

Ben Colman
Associate Professor of Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology
449 Charles H. Clapp Building (CHCB)
e-mail: ben.colman@umontana.edu; Phone: (406) 243-6315
Office hours: Flexible, sign up at: <https://ben-colman.youcanbook.me>

Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 4-4:50 pm, ISB 110

Field Trip, September 2-4th, Lubrecht Experimental Forest

- Meet Friday, September 2nd at 4:30 on North side of Forestry Building

Credits: 1.0

Course Purpose:

This course is designed to introduce students to the landscape of Western Montana and the field of environmental science and sustainability, and to some of the resources at the University of Montana. Field-based learning about conservation exposes students to real-world settings and challenges related to the sustainable use of natural resources for the interrelated benefits of people and ecosystems. The Blackfoot Watershed will serve as our laboratory for the field trip portion of the course. Through a combination of field activities, discussions, and readings, students will begin to orient themselves around conservation issues in Western Montana and in the broader biophysical and human landscape of North America. Students will engage first-hand with the ecological and social characteristics of the region, including resource-dependent livelihoods, issues of social and ecological change, and current challenges to building resilience in functional ecosystems and sustainable human communities. Tuesday sessions will focus on skills and resources for ESS students.

Course Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will gain a basic understanding of:

- The geological, ecological, and landownership history of the Blackfoot Valley
- Livelihoods and community-based conservation in the area
- Fire ecology and forest disturbances at Lubrecht Experiment Forest
- Aquatic ecology of the Blackfoot River and beaver restoration in the region
- Specializations within the ESS major
- Resources and strategies for career preparedness

Required Readings:

Readings will be posted on the Moodle page. There are no required readings for the September 2-4th field trip.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only; 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).

Students are required to attend all class meetings or make up all class sessions through alternative arrangements as determined by instructors. We will work with students to acquire appropriate gear and plan for the field trip, but students must pack their own appropriate personal gear and be prepared to depart on time.

Grades will be based on the following:

- 80 points – Attendance of and participation on Tuesdays and on the three-day fieldtrip
- 20 points – Writing prompts over the course of the field trip
- 100 points TOTAL

Academic Honesty:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at the [Student Conduct Code Link: http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php). Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated; all violations will result in reduced credit for the assignment, zero credit for the assignment, zero-credit for the course, and/or reference to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for further disciplinary action.

Transportation:

Transportation in UM vehicles is provided for the field trip. Students are allowed to drive their own vehicles to any UM field trip, but need to communicate with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the day of the field trip. Students who drive their own vehicles will not be reimbursed for mileage and are covered only by their own auto insurance. If students choose to drive together (car pool), please note the driver is liable for not only themselves but also the passenger (as with any private vehicle).

Students with Disabilities:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have not already registered with ODE, please contact them by:

Option 1: Submit [the inquiry form](#)

Option 2: Email them at ode@umontana.edu

Option 3: Call them at (406) 243-2243

Alcohol, Cannabis, and Drugs:

Alcohol, marijuana, and any drugs not prescribed by a doctor are strictly PROHIBITED. Students are not permitted to bring any of these substances on the field trip. STUDENTS CAUGHT WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, will receive an F for the course, and be referred to the Dean's office for further review and action. **There will be no second chances; there will be no discussion.**

Tobacco:

Tobacco products are also PROHIBITED. University of Montana is a Tobacco-Free Campus. Cigarettes, cigars, cloves, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and all similar products are NOT ALLOWED on the field trip. Students caught with these products will receive a reduced participation grade and be asked to discard all tobacco and smoking related products/paraphernalia.

Email:

Your UM e-mail is the only way we communicate with you outside of class about University-related and course-related business. You are expected to check, read, and (if necessary) respond to your e-mail on a regular basis.