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ENSC 495.01: Field Study

Vicki J. Watson

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Vicki Watson, 101 Botany, 243-5153, <Vicki.watson@umontana.edu>, office hours 10-12 Wed (usually)
Grad Assistants: Jonathan Drygas and Diana Ibarra
Class meets Wednesday from 2-5pm in Natural Science 102A. Field trips at other times, including weekends

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: ENSC 360 (or other approved ecology course); a statistics course

References: Cox General Ecology Lab Manual – **read chapters 1-5** (& rest as needed for your project).
Also useful Brower et al. Field & Lab methods for General Ecology . Both are on library reserve.

Week	Topics Overview & Readings	Reading &/or Work Due
8-27	Course goals/mechanics/project ideas	<i>Cox ch 1(Designing an Ecological Study)</i>
8-29 to 9-1	Clark Fork River Sampling (arrange time)	<i>Cox Ch 2 (Experimental design), Ch 3 (Sampling design)</i> handout on content of proposals, QA/QC
9-3	Stream methods demo	Sept 13 Clark Fork Superfund trip (360 Q1a due 9-10)
9-10	Stream methods demo cont if needed	<i>Cox Ch 5(Literature Research)</i>
9-17	Visit wastewater plant & land application site	Proposal due F 9-26 (360 Q1b due 9-24)
9-24	Meet with Watson to discuss draft proposal	Oct 4 Blackfoot field trip
10-1	Teams do field work	<i>Cox Ch4(Statistics); 360 Q2 due 10-10</i>
10-8	Organization of primary research papers	PR1: Draft Intro, Methods, Biblio due F 10-17 (360 Q3 due 10-24)
10-15	Work on draft intro, methods, biblio	PR2: Outline of rest of paper due F 10-31 (360 Q4 due F 11-14)
10-22	Training in lab work as needed	Teams meet with Watson
10-29	Lab work as needed	PR3: First draft paper due 11-19; 360 Q5 due 12-3
11-5	Data analysis & presentation	
11-12	Teams work on paper	
11-19	Teams work on paper	
11-26	Thanksgiving week -- no class	
12-3	Overview of what has been learned; evaluations;	Teams meet with Watson; Bonus due 12-5
12-8	Team presentations, 1 to 3pm (assigned final time)	FINAL TEAM PAPER due 12-10

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 PR (33pts); paper 150 pts; presentation 100 pts
- 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 for co-convened grad class– 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.