ENST 542.01: Transboundary Environmental Issues Field Course

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Transboundary Environmental Issues Field Course
ENST 542.01
1:10-2 pm MW and all day 9/7-9/12

Instructors: Len Broberg
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Ofc hours: M 10:30-11:30/Th 11-1

Learning Objectives: A successful student will:
1. Understand the unique challenges posed by natural resource management across borders.
2. Be able to identify government actors responsible for resource management decisions in Montana and Alberta.
3. Gain skills in problem solving across boundaries and be able to identify appropriate approaches to resolve issues in various jurisdictions (collaboration, public participation, negotiation, policy formation, legislation and judicial/treaty mechanisms).
4. Understand how to gather information from sources in Montana, Alberta and British Columbia and how to integrate that information across a bio-region (Crown of the Continent Ecosystem). They will apply this understanding to complete a project for an outside organization.
5. Gain an appreciation of Canadian culture and how it compares to the United States.
6. Understand the principles of adaptive management, common pool resource management and transboundary management theory and be able to apply those principles to real-world problems.

Purpose:
The purpose of this course is to give students a transboundary planning, policy and ecology experience. Students will study the Crown of the Continent region spanning the Canadian/United States border. The course will review the political systems and administrative systems of each country relevant to natural resource policy decision-making as well as the ecological systems in which they occur. Students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with stakeholders in the issue, review pertinent literature and make a presentation to the class on the field trip regarding literature relevant to the course theme of roads and roadless or protected areas.

Student Projects:
Students will complete a project for the Crown Managers Partnership individually or in groups of 2-4. The project will be due November 3.

Texts:
Moodle site for ENST 542
(fill in texts that we will give out from CNREP)

Tentative Schedule
Aug 25- Organizational meeting: introduce course, readings and project concept. Canada and US administrative and legislative systems relevant to the project. Read: Dyck Chap 7 and Tindal Chap 6 on Moodle

Aug 27 – Canadian government structure cont’d- Protected Area types and policies US/Canada
Sept 1- No class Labor Day


Sunday Sept 7- Leave Missoula at about 12 noon and begin field portion of class

Sept 12- Return to Missoula by 11:30 pm

Sept 15- Work on journals individually

Sept 17- Policy Formation and Implementation- Adaptive Management

Sept 22- Policy and management in a transboundary context- special issues

Sept 24- The Transboundary Flathead dispute- a history- Journals due

Sept 29 – The Mekong River Commission- comparison with the Flathead

Oct 1 – Emerging transboundary natural resource conservation efforts regionally and worldwide

Oct 6- Project conferences with instructor

Oct 8- Project conferences with instructor

November 3- Final Project due

Trip Outline (tentative)

September 7- leave Missoula at 12 pm, travel to the Flathead Region and stay at North Fork Hostel in Polebridge, Montana


September 10- Attend the Crown Roundtable Annual Conference, Waterton, AB- travel to Calgary area

September 11 – Attend Under Western Skies Conference Calgary, AB- return to Waterton, AB

September 12- Attend Crown Roundtable Annual Conference, meet with NPCA and Blackfeet about resource issues on the Blackfeet Reservation- return to Missoula by 11:30 pm

Journals

Students will complete a journal with entries reflecting on issues raised in the meetings with speakers, the conference sessions and discussions between class members. Journals will also chronicle the student's evolving conception of the problem and context of the issues and stakeholders. Students should identify emerging issues, interests and alternatives in their journals.
Grading

Students will be graded based on participation in discussions and meetings (25%), journals (25%), and the student project (50%). Grading will be on a plus/minus basis.

Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Student Conduct Code

Plagiarism or other misconduct as defined in the Student Conduct Code will result in sanctions possibly including receiving a failing grade for the course and referral to a formal misconduct process.

While traveling you serve as a representative of the Environmental Studies Program, the University of Montana, the State of Montana and the United States. Please conduct yourself in a manner appropriate to a positive representation of all these entities. Failure to do so may result in loss of privileges and funding support including in return to Missoula at your own expense, regardless of whether a student conduct code violation is believed to have occurred. The judgment as to continued participation in the travel portion of the course resides in the sole discretion of the instructor.