GPHY 344.01: Crown of the Continent

Rick Graetz

University of Montana - Missoula, rick.graetz@umontana.edu
Professor: Rick Graetz

Place: Stone Hall 304

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:10 AM - 12:30 PM

Office & Hours: Stone Hall 307A – phone 406-243-2307
Office Hours – Tue & Thursday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, and by appointment (e-mail is the best way to contact me)

E-Mail Address: rick.graetz@umontana.edu – I travel frequently when not teaching and can't always respond to e-mails immediately, but most days I check it - cell phone 406-439-9277

Research Assistant: Will Klaczynski – william.klaczynski@umontana.edu / 406-207-9267

Required Reading:

Montana’s Bob Marshall Country by Rick & Susie Graetz
Glacier National Park: The First 100 years by C.W. Guthrie
Last Stand: Battle to Save the Buffalo and the Birth of the New West by Michael Punke

Reading Assignments

Assignments will be given out weekly – exam questions will be taken from readings as well as lectures.

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 http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.”

Exams/Assignments:

Exam 1 – 100 pts.
Exam 2 – 100 pts.
Exam 3 – 100 pts.
Final Exam – 100 pts.
Writing Assignment – 50 pts.

Attendance: Attendance will count as 10% of your overall grade.

Final Examination: Week of December 8 – 12, but an alternative night session is usually agreed upon.

Disability Access

If you are a student with a disability and wish to discuss reasonable modifications for this course, contact me privately to discuss the specific modifications you wish to request. Please be advised I may
request that you provide a letter from Disability Services for Students verifying your right to reasonable modifications. If you have not yet contacted Disability Services, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to verify your disability and to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at http://www.umt.edu/disability.

This Is The Crown of the Continent – Course of Study and Outcome

The Crown of the Continent is considered to be one of the most intact, pristine ecosystems in America and a microcosm of the American West that once was. It straddles the Continental Divide stretching from 11,216-foot Mount Joffre and the headwaters of Canada’s Elk River south to 5,610-foot Rogers Pass and the Blackfoot River drainage in Montana – a majestic 250-mile long run of country. Its 13 million acres are bordered on the east by the Rocky Mountain Front of Alberta and Montana and on the west by the Mission, Flathead, Tobacco, Kootenai River and Columbia Lake valleys.

Our course of study of this iconic and dynamic ecosystem landscape will include the use of photography and maps, and you will hear from outside speakers considered experts in their field. We will also delve into all realms of the Crown’s geography – its physical, historical, cultural and economic elements.

You will also gain an understanding of the following:

Collaboration for Conservation – No place in America has experienced as much cooperation and grassroots work for conservation as the Crown. We document the work being done in various landscapes from the beginning and describe how so much accomplishment is possible when all participants are heard.

Sustainable Development – Creating conservation projects that preserve traditional uses of Crown landscapes has shown we can devise economic activities that are in harmony with the ecosystem. We study the results of current successes and initiate discussions on new possibilities.

Climate Change – The Crown, especially in Glacier National Park, is perhaps the most expansive outdoor laboratory in the nation to study the many facets of an alteration in our long-term climate. Through the knowledge of what is occurring, we can determine ways in which to live with it, adapt to it, benefit from it, and pass on the results and ideas to folks working in other landscapes.

Urban/Wildland Interface Conflicts – Several areas of the Crown exhibit examples of this issue and present opportunities to create workable solutions.

Indigenous Cultures – No place in North America experienced so much interaction between the Indian nations. The Crown allows us a chance to understand the history behind the culture of the many native peoples who populate several areas of this ecosystem.

You will see the Crown as if you were traveling through it on foot, horseback or vehicle. When we adjourn in December you will have a firm understanding of this grand piece of geography and all it stands for!
CROWN OF THE CONTINENT CLASS SCHEDULE

August 26
About the class – Introduction to the Crown of the Continent and UM’s Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative

August 28
Professor lecture – Photographic tour of all areas of the Crown – Discussion
Reading – Bob Marshall – The Rocky Mountain Front (page 44)

September 2
Professor lecture – Rocky Mountain Front – Wildlife history – Great North Trail
Reading – Bob Marshall – This is Bob Marshall Country (pages 10 – 14) and Geology of the Bob (pages 24 – 43)
– GNP – Chapter 1

September 4
Professor lecture – Bob Marshall Country – Glacier National Park (Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park)

September 9
The Pine Bark Beetle in the Crown – Speaker
Reading – GNP – Chapter 3
– Bob Marshall – Wildlife (pages 78 – 87)
– Moodle – Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife

September 11
Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife – Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks – Speaker
Reading – GNP – Chapter 4

September 16
Seeley Lake – Swan Valley – USFS District Ranger – Speaker

September 18
Professor lecture – Rogers Pass – Blackfoot Valley – Swan Valley and Swan Range – Review
Exam 1 – All material since the first class plus reading
Reading – Moodle – Flathead Lake Story, The Mission Mountains, Flathead Indian Reservation, Formation of Flathead Lake

September 23
Professor lecture – Flathead Lake, Mission Valley, Mission Range – Flathead Reservation
September 25
Wilderness in the Crown – The Wilderness Society – Speaker
   **Reading** – GNP (pages 13 – 15)
   – Bob Marshall – Notes on Indians and Native Use of the Wilderness (p. 139 – 141)

September 30
The Salish and Kootenai people of the Crown – Speaker
   **Reading** – GNP (p. 7 – 12)
   – Moodle – The Blackfeet Nation

October 2
The Blackfeet Nation in the Crown – Speaker
   **Reading** – GNP – Chapter 5

October 7
Glacier National Park Backcountry and Bear Management – GNP Backcountry Ranger – Speaker
   **Reading** – GNP – Chapter 6

October 9
Professor Lecture – The Whitefish Range – North Fork of the Flathead River
   **Reading** – GNP – Chapter 7

October 14
Weather over the Crown of the Continent
   **Reading** – GNP – Chapter 8

October 16
Professor Lecture – Tobacco Valley – Crow’s Nest Pass – Elk River – Fernie
   **Exam 2 – All material since Exam**
   **Reading** – Bob Marshall – Bob Marshall, His Vision Was His Legacy (pages 15 – 21)

October 21
Conservation work on the Rocky Mountain Front and Blackfoot and Swan valleys – The Nature Conservancy of Montana – Speaker

October 23
Glacier National Park Management – GNP Supervisory Ranger – Speaker
   **Reading** – GNP – Chapter 9

October 28
Flatehead Lake and Flathead River system – Speaker

October 30

Professor lecture – Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem – Review

Last Stand Writing Assignment Due

Reading – Moodle – Conservation and Cooperation
– Moodle – A River to Ruin

November 4 – NO CLASS – Election Day

November 6

Canadian Crown – Research in the Crown – Speaker

Reading – GNP – Chapter 10

November 11 – NO CLASS – Veteran’s Day

Reading – GNP – Chapter 11

November 13

Raptor Migration in the Crown – Speaker

Reading – GNP – Chapters 12 – 14

November 18

Climate Change in Glacier National Park – Speaker

November 20

Review
Exam 3 – All material since Exam 2

November 25 – NO CLASS – Travel Day

November 27 – NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Day

December 2

Grizzly Bear Management on the Rocky Mountain Front and in the Bob Marshall Country – Speaker

December 4

Review and Discussion

December 8-12 – Final Exam – To Be Announced