



## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Alaska Fairbanks

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

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# Syllabus Summer 2024

TITLE: Field Course of Natural Resource Management Complexity in Alaska

NUMBER: NRM 290

CREDITS: 2 (1+0+1)

PREREQUISITES: Permission of instructor

LOCATION: Field

MEETING TIME: May 6 to May 15

COURSE TYPE: Lecture and Practicum (Field course)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Peter Fix

OFFICE LOCATION: 323 O'Neill

OFFICE HOURS: T & Th 3 – 4:30 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 474-6926

EMAIL ADDRESS: [pjfix@alaska.edu](mailto:pjfix@alaska.edu)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog description:

A 10-day field course examining ecological and societal factors that create challenges to sustainable management of Alaska's natural resources. Topics include agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, wildland fire response and management, energy development, recreation, and tourism.

Additional course description:

This 10-day field course travels the road system in interior and southcentral Alaska, including the Kenai Peninsula. Each day of the course consists of interactions with natural resource professionals, including independent agricultural producers, state and federal land management agency personnel, oil and gas industry personnel, and researchers in various capacities. Specific stops vary, but might include agricultural operations, fish hatcheries, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the Swanson River oil field, the Chugach National Forest, and Denali National Park.

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## **COURSE GOALS**

The goals of the course are to:

- Introduce students to the various natural resources sectors of the Alaska economy
- Provide an overview of potential careers in natural resources
- Examine regional differences in natural resource issues
- Provide in-person observation of the issues
- Provide an overview of the factors that create complexity in managing natural resources

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After completion of the course, students will

- Identify and describe major natural resource segments of the Alaska economy
- Identify and describe ecological and social conditions common to myriad natural resource issues, and those conditions unique to specific issues
- Accurately summarize opposing viewpoints regarding the specific natural resource issues examined during the course
- Critique the foundations of opposing viewpoints, identifying those linked to a scientific basis vs values
- Provide novel solutions to the issues discussed

## **COURSE READINGS/MATERIALS**

N/A

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE**

This is a field course with many stops outside. Students must be prepared to spend time outside in potentially inclement weather.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

This is a field course in which we will visit with professionals in various natural resources management industries/agencies. The speakers will present their role in natural resources management and issues they face. Each evening we will have group discussion that: 1) recaps the presentations of the day, 2) critiques the issues discussed, and 3) provides novel solutions to the issues discussed that day. A journal of course stops and a research paper are required.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

See attached.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Attendance throughout the entire field course is required. Participation in shared duties (e.g., cooking, loading vehicles, cleaning lodging facilities) is required. Respect of student's viewpoints is required as is respectful and courteous interactions with other students.

## EVALUATION POLICIES

The course grade is determined by five factors

1. Participation in logistics (e.g., cooking, loading vehicles, cleaning). In professional field work, logistics are critical to successfully meeting goals and may be a component of employee evaluation. This course is no different; speakers have arranged their time around this course – at a cost to them – it is critical we keep to our schedule. Past experience with field situations could even be a job interview question asked of you. As such, your professionalism in assisting with course logistics will be a component of the course evaluation, counting as 10% of the grade. Evaluation will be based three factors: assigned duties (50%), other tasks (30%), and punctuality (20%).

	A	B	C	D	F
Assigned duties	Takes leadership, no prompting necessary	Leadership but prompting necessary	Completes tasks, but prompting necessary, lack of leadership	Minimal completion of assigned tasks	No participation
Other tasks	Consistently assists with tasks	Inconsistent assistance	Minimal assistance	Minimal assistance	No assistance
Punctuality	Always ready on time, no prompting necessary, does not cause delays	Always ready on time, some prompting needed.	Significant prompting needed, actions impact group (needing to wait, pack at last minute, etc.)	Seriously impedes the ability to stay on schedule	Consistently causes delays

### 2. Professionalism: 10% of grade

Evaluation will be based on two equally weighted factors, interaction with speakers and interaction with students.

	A	B	C	D	F
Interaction with speakers	Respectful, attentive, asks questions*	Respectful, attentive, minimal questions*	Occasional lack of attention, does not ask questions*	Often inattentive, irrelevant comments /questions	Almost always inattentive
Interaction with students	Respectful towards other students	Respectful to students	Occasional disruption	Disruptive with students, complaints from students	Many disruptions and complaints

\*Recognizes some differences in personalities, some students might ask questions one-one with speaker or show other indications of engagement with speaker/topic.

### 3. Participation in evening discussion: 20% of grade

Evaluation will be based on two equally weighted factors.

	A	B	C	D	F
Recap of stops/issues	Comprehensive and accurate	Accurate, but some gaps	Some errors in recap	Inaccurate, factual errors	No participation
Examination of issues	Exhibits critical thinking, examines multiple sides of issue	Thoughtful, multiple perspectives not thoroughly incorporated	Simplistic explanations, multiple perspectives not incorporated	Simplistic, mostly irrelevant	No participation

4. Journal of stops: 25% of grade, due June 3

Details provided in a separate document.

Evaluation will be based on recap of stops (40%), linkage among stops (20%) personal perspective (30%), and writing/organization (10%):

	A	B	C	D	F
Recap of stops	Comprehensive and accurate	Accurate, but some gaps	Some errors in recap	Inaccurate, factual errors	Missing a majority of stops
Linkage among stops	Multiple linkages, novel observations	Limited linkages, but novel	Few linkages and obvious	Few linkages, but not relevant	No linkages
Personal perspective	Complexity in thought	Limited in complexity	Simplistic	Minimal perspectives, simplistic	No perspectives
Writing/presentation and organization	Adds to presentation	Does not detract	At times impedes presentation	Detracts from presentation	Seriously detracts

5. Research paper: 35% of grade, due June 3

Details provided in a separate document.

Evaluation will be based on selection of the topic (10%), literature review/summary (40%), synthesis of perspectives (30%), and writing/organization (20%):

	A	B	C	D	F
Selection of topic	Novel and highly relevant;	Relevant, some creativity	Lack of creativity	Limited scope and relevance	Completely irrelevant
Literature review/summary	Multiple, credible sources; accurate summary and synthesis of previous work; provides clear description of current status of topic	Limited sources, but credible; mostly accurate summary and synthesis of previous work; provides description of current status	Limited sources, questionable credibility; current status of topic is not clear	No sources cited; limited understanding/description of current status of topic	Section missing from paper
Synthesis of perspectives	Accurate, multiple perspectives	Limited integration of perspectives	Lack of integration of perspectives	Only one, limited perspective presented.	Section missing from paper.
Writing / organization	Adds to presentation, free of errors, appropriate citations	Does not detract, mostly error free, some citation errors	Multiple errors, impedes presentation, citation errors	Errors and organization seriously impedes presentation, but main thesis can be discerned	Not possible to discern thesis of paper

C- (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to [Student Code of Conduct](#).

## EXPLANATION OF NB/I/W GRADES

**This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades** *The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.*

### **Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:**

"The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

**Successful, timely completion of this course depends on committing yourself early and maintaining your effort.** Failure to submit assignments in a timely manner may result in faculty-initiated Withdrawal from the course, which can result in a **W** on your transcript.

## EFFORT AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

This course is 1 credit lecture, which requires 14 hours of lecture and approximately 26 hours of work outside the lecture, and 1 credit of practicum, which requires between 40 to 80 hours of work. This course consists of 9 days of, on average, 4 hours of interaction with speakers, 3.75 hours of driving, 1 hour of discussion, and 1 hour of shared duties. One day is a free day with 1 hour of discussion. In addition, you will spend approximately 5 - 10 hours on your journal and 10 - 15 hours on your paper. The credit hour distribution is derived from counting 14 hours of interaction with speakers as "lecture," the remaining interactions with speakers as practicum (22 hours) 1 hour of driving time per day as practicum (as some of the driving examines the resource management issues discussed; 9 total hours), and the discussion and shared duties as practicum (20 hours), for a total of 51 hours of practicum.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**COVID-19 statement:** Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:

<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf?authuser=0>

Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

**Student protections statement:** UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: <https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

**Disability services statement:** I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

**Student Academic Support:**

- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu), Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, [uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu), Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, [uafmathstatlab@gmail.com](mailto:uafmathstatlab@gmail.com), Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List ([https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM\\_364e19011717281.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf))

**Student Resources:**

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, [uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu), Whitaker 208)
- Student Health & Counseling [**6 free counseling sessions**] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Whitaker 203)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, [uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu), Eielson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, [asuaf.office@alaska.edu](mailto:asuaf.office@alaska.edu), Wood Center 119)

**Nondiscrimination statement:** The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination). For more information, contact:

UAF Department of Equity and Compliance  
1692 Tok Lane, 3rd floor, Constitution Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99775  
907-474-7300  
[uaf-deo@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-deo@alaska.edu)

[Additional syllabi statement for courses including off-campus programs and research activities:](#)

University Sponsored Off-Campus Programs and Research Activities

We want you to know that:

1. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).
2. Incidents can be reported to your university's Equity and Compliance office (listed below) or online reporting portal. University of Alaska takes immediate, effective, and appropriate action to respond to reported acts of discrimination and harassment.
3. There are supportive measures available to individuals that may have experienced discrimination.
4. University of Alaska's Board of Regents' Policy & University Regulations (UA BoR P&R) 01.02.020 Nondiscrimination and 01.04 Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination Under Title IX, go to: <http://alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/>.
5. UA BoR P&R apply at all university owned or operated sites, university sanctioned events, clinical sites and during all academic or research related travel that are university sponsored.

For further information on your rights and resources [click here](#).