

**Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Science**

Course Outline (Winter 2007)

Course: Introduction to Natural Resources Management (FO1040) 2(2-0-0)

Instructor	Office	Phone	E-mail
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Classroom	Date of Lectures	Time
B304	Tuesday and Thursday	13:00-13:50

Prerequisites:	None	Transfer status:	UNBC NREM 101
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Calendar Description

Introduction to natural resource values, issues and professional fields of natural resources management.

Course Objectives

This course is designed for students who are *interested* in natural resources and their sustainable management. We will explore the past social and political actions, and present developments that have shaped the natural resource disciplines of fisheries management, wildlife management, forestry and range management.

This course can be best described as a look at the current "hot topics" in resource management. It examines the way resource management has evolved in BC, Alberta, Canada and the world. The course will provide a context for resource policies and practices. It will examine the profession of resource management, land-use decision making processes and provide a very brief introduction to first nations' view of natural resource management principles.

Readings

A reading list will be provided by lecture topic, available on reserve in the Library. The readings are intended to provide *supplementary or* background information. Selected readings will be considered part of the course content for examination purposes.

Course Format

The course consists of lectures (including guest lectures), in combination with one term paper/presentation and two summary assignments/presentations, reading assignments/quizzes and a final exam.

Term Paper/presentation

Each student is required to choose one of the current "hot topics" in natural resource management (e.g. forest certification, natural disturbance principles, resource management history, wildlife, fisheries, range, forest aesthetics, parks, Canada/US softwood trade, first nations resource management, allowable annual cuts, land use planning, carbon budgets, etc.) and to submit a 6-page written report (double-spaced, font size 12) and deliver an oral presentation that addresses the following:

- The current state of the issue/resource management practice.
- The history of the issue (is there a recognized controversy over this issue?)
- Current policy/legislation (AB, BC or Canadian) governing the issue/practice.
- Future trends/resolution regarding the issue(s). Are there government policies in place that restrict application of better resource management practices?
- Expound on the differing views of the issue.

- In your opinion - what view represents the ethical and moral natural resource management practice. Justify your argument.

Your report and presentation should be professional in nature, e.g. free from errors (grammar and typos), properly referenced where appropriate. A detailed report and presentation format and a marking scheme will be provided. A six-page report means six pages of actual text, excluding footnotes, cover page, reference list, photos, figures, etc. We are looking for a well-developed formal report and presentation with a proper introduction and conclusion. Your chosen topic and report outline is required before you develop your report and presentation. Use of research on the Web must be properly referenced!

Your written report is worth 70% of your mark, oral presentation 20% and your outline 10%.

Guest introduction, thank-you and asking questions

From time to time guest lecturers will make presentations in this course. These guests are recognized "experts" in their fields. Each student will be assigned to introduce/thank 2-3 guest speakers (4% of total course mark). The names and contacts of the guest speakers will be provided and it is the student's responsibility to contact the speaker and obtain the speaker's biography and specific topic.

To ensure students gain as much as possible from these 'experts', we require each student to ask at least one question during each guest lecture (3% of your course mark). Questions may be closely related to the topic, general in nature (e.g. what influenced you to pursue a career in the resource management field?) or can explore interrelationships of the resource topic at hand with other resource management issues (e.g. how do you think the current mountain pine beetle epidemic will affect the Canada/US softwood lumber dispute?).

Summary and presentation of guest lectures

We will conduct two summary and presentation sessions (2 x 7% of your course mark) to reflect on what the guest speakers have presented. Each student will prepare a written summary (no more than 200 words) and a short presentation on the guest presentations he/she has introduced. A copy of the written summary must be distributed to each participant in the class before the presentation. The presentation will be 10 minutes for each student, including 2-3 minutes for Q/A.

Participation and Respect

Guests and fellow students will not always agree on issues, particularly as we will cover some contentious topics. Debating the issues in a free and respectful manner is all part of the learning process. Everyone needs to feel free to speak his/her mind and feel respected in his/her opinions. Ridiculing, condemning, and/or dismissing another person's opinion is not acceptable practice in this class. Listening, considering others' opinions and debating, is encouraged. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Course Content

The following provides a tentative list of specific topics we may cover in this course. Lecture sequence is subject to change, depending on availability of guest speakers.

1. What are natural resources? What is meant by "Natural resource management?"
2. Canada's natural ecoregions, Forest Ecosystems in BC and Alberta, history of exploitation of natural resources, the four eras of forest resource development
3. History of Canadian resource management policy, including an introduction to "Species at Risk Act"
4. History and background of B.C. and Alberta legislation and policy governing resource Management
5. Wildlife management: Caribou management and historical population shift
6. Forest aesthetics and operational management
7. Stakeholders and public advisory committees – what characterizes these individuals?

8. Certification and "Sustainable forest Management Plans". Can the public force sustainable use of forest resources?
9. Who's minding the Critters? Resource management policy for the management of wildlife. Origins and issues. The newest buzzword 'ecosystem management'
10. Park management in Alberta – historical and current perspective. Mandate for parks. Should parks generate revenue, provide a place to escape, or function as ecological reserves? Who's minding our National Parks?
11. Current state of land-use planning in BC and AB, including forest tenure system.
12. Timber supply analysis and stumpage systems in Alberta and BC. Does TSA ensure sustainability? The differences between TSA and AAC (annual allowable cut) determination. AAC determination in a forest company
13. Ethics of resource management
14. Rangeland management in Alberta
15. Who owns fisheries? - Joint jurisdiction (provincial and federal) of the fisheries resource, aquaculture, and first-nations' rights to fishing.
16. Canada/US softwood lumber dispute.
17. First-nations' resources right and land claim
18. Mountain pine beetle epidemic - How big is this epidemic? Can it be stopped? What will life after mountain pine beetle look like for the forest industry ... for natural resource based communities?
19. Nature does it right, doesn't she? Natural disturbance - patch size, seral stage, distribution, and old growth management areas (OGMAs). Does management at the Landscape level ensure environmental sustainability?

Requirements

Regular attendance at lectures and participation in classroom discussion are required. Absence due to illness must be validated by a doctor's note on return to class. Marks will be deducted on overdue assignments/papers at a rate of 20% per day. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with according to College policies/regulations. The instructor reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services.

Evaluation (relative percentage):

Reading Assignments/quizzes (3 x 5)	15%
Class attendance (1 mark deducted per missed class)	4%
Guest introduction/preparation	4%
Asking questions during guest lectures	3%
Summary & presentations of guest lectures (2 x 7)	14%
Term paper/presentation	20%
Final Exam	40%
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	100%

<i>Alpha Grade</i>	<i>4-Point Equivalent</i>	<i>Designation</i>
A+	4.0	<i>Excellent</i>
A	4.0	
A-	3.7	<i>First Class Standing</i>
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
D	1.0	
F	0.0	<i>Fail</i>