NR 693: Seminar
Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship
Warner College of Natural Resources

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor
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Office Hours: By appointment

Term: Fall 2014
Class Meeting Days: Friday
Class Meeting Hours: 9:00-10:40 am
Class Location: Forestry 212
Course Credits: 2

Course Overview
This seminar is intended to do four things: develop a cohort of learners, provide you with a (re)introduction to skills needed to succeed in academia, expose you to thoughtful discussions of some of the gray areas of natural resource stewardship, and provide opportunities to expand your professional networks and explore career opportunities. It is graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Course Goals and Objectives
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- create formulas, and develop and format tables and graphs in Excel
- efficiently search for articles using the library database and evaluate the sources they find
- recognize plagiarism and describe one brand of citation manager software
- name ten natural resources professionals that they have met, and have personally followed up with three of these
- discuss their career goals and objectives and describe a plan for the coursework they will take to advance these
- revise their resume/curriculum vitae based on a specific job description and describe how to find more information about a call

Required Texts and Materials
None, although there may be assigned readings throughout the semester. Students will receive these via email one week in advance.

Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials
None

Important Dates to Remember
Last Day to Add a Class without an Override: Sunday, August 31st, 2014
Registration Closes: Wednesday, September 10th, 2014
Withdrawal Deadline: Monday, October 20th, 2014
Fall Recess: November 24th–November 28th, 2014
Last Day to Process a University Withdrawal: Friday, December 12th, 2014
**Course Schedule and/or Schedule of Assignments**

August 29: Introductions and MNRS requirements.

September 5: Excel Workshop: Formulas, Charts and Graphs with Nick Leinen, Computer Training and Support Services (CTSS). We will meet in room 171 of Morgan Library. If you want to meet early and walk over together, I will leave from my office (NR 235) at 8:50 am.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**
1) In Excel, create formulas, charts and graphs and use formatting to make these attractive and clearly present data. If you have data to analyze from a different course, you may use that data. **Due September 12th.**
2) Consider any written assignments you have in other courses this term or particular interests that you would like to research more. Be prepared next week to conduct a literature search surrounding the topic of your choose – it may be one of personal or professional interest, or also a topic related to a research paper assigned in another course. **Due September 12th in class.**

September 12: Using library resources for literature reviews with Jocelyn Boice. Library search engines, Interlibrary Loan, Prospector, and evaluating sources. We will meet in room 171 of Morgan Library. If you want to meet early and walk over together, I will leave from my office (NR 235) at 8:50 am.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Create a list of at least ten peer-reviewed articles pertaining to a specific natural resources topic. If you will be doing a research paper for a different class, you may use that topic for this assignment. **Due September 19th.**

September 19: Citing sources, plagiarism, and citation managers with Sonya Le Febre.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Write a paragraph that incorporates at least 3 of the sources from your library search, cited properly, and a works cited list. Include both direct quotes and paraphrased citations in your paragraph. If you will be doing a research paper for a different class, you may use that topic for this assignment. **Due September 26th.**

September 26: Dave Anderson, Director, and Jeremy Siemers, Zoology Team Leader, Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

October 3: John Fusaro, Range Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

October 10: Jennifer Kovecses, Executive Director, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed.

October 17: John Giordanengo, Restoration Ecologist, Founder of AloTerra Restoration Services, LLC, and Chair of the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Create a LinkedIn account if you don’t yet have one. Post a copy of your resume or CV to RamCT Blackboard. **Due October 24th.**

October 24: Paul Layden, Internship & Undergraduate Coordinator, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources. Developing/Refining Your Electronic Persona for the Working World. NOTE: We will meet in the GTL lab, the corner computer lab right across from my office in NR 235.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read your fellow students’ resumes/CV’s and offer suggested edits. Based on the examples you see, consider how you might update your own resume/CV. Develop/refine your LinkedIn electronic persona for the working world. **Due October 31st.**
October 31: Wendy Rose, Career Center Liaison, Warner College of Natural Resources. The Office of Personnel Management application and hiring procedures, resumes, networking and informational interviewing.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**
1) Update your resume/CV based on the edits you received, the examples that inspired you, and the information you learned from Paul Layden and Wendy Rose. Repost your updated resume/CV on RamCT Blackboard. **Due November 7th.**
2) Conduct an informational interview. Write a synopsis of the interview (who you interviewed, your questions and their answers, and other advice you received) and post to RamCT Blackboard. **Due December 5th.**

November 7: Steve Popovich, Acting Regional Botanist, Rocky Mountain Region, and Forest Botanist/Rare Plant & Noxious Weeds Program Manager, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, United States Forest Service. Overview of federal land management agencies and their role in resource management, followed by natural resource management scenarios (HINT: you’ll be working in groups to come up with solutions!)

**ASSIGNMENT:** Work with your group to develop a management response to the natural resource scenario given. **Due Friday, November 14th in class!**

November 14: Steve Popovich, Acting Regional Botanist, Rocky Mountain Region, and Forest Botanist/Rare Plant & Noxious Weeds Program Manager, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, United States Forest Service. Student group presentations of their solution to the resource management scenarios, followed by an explanation of what the agency decided to do and how their solution worked (or not).

November 21: Joel Vaad, Ranch Foreman, Colorado State University.

November 28: FALL BREAK


December 12: M. Lee Barber, Director, and Roy Cook, Natural Resource Specialist, Center for the Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University.

**Basis for Final Grade**
This course is graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory. To receive a grade of satisfactory, you must:

1) Attend at least 12 of the 14 seminars with invited speakers.

2) Submit the assignments on the dates due.

**Grades of "Incomplete":**
Per university policy, an instructor may assign temporary grade of Incomplete to a student who demonstrates that he or she could not complete the requirements of the course due to circumstances beyond the student’s control and not reasonably foreseeable. A student must be passing a course at the time that an Incomplete is requested unless the instructor determines that there are extenuating circumstances to assign an Incomplete to a student who is not passing the course. When an instructor assigns an Incomplete, he or she shall specify in writing using the Department Incomplete Grade Form the requirements the student shall fulfill to complete the
course as well as the reasons for granting an Incomplete when the student is not passing the course. The instructor shall retain a copy of this statement in his or her grade records and provide copies to the student and the department head or his or her designee. (Section I.6 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual)

Disability Access:
Colorado State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations must first contact Resources for Disabled Students before requesting accommodations from the professor. Resources for Disabled Students (RDS; http://rds.colostate.edu/home) is located in room 100 of the General Services Building. Their phone is (970) 491-6385 (V/TDD). Students who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations.

Attendance Policy:
If you will miss more than two speakers for excused reasons, you may either conduct an informational interview of a natural resource agency (private or public) or arrange to meet a natural resources professional at their place of work. You will turn in a write up of your interview or meeting. The reason for your absence must be submitted to me in advance, or if that is not possible, within 24 hours of the missed class. Those of you who will be missing class to attend the Society of American Foresters national conference are welcome to submit a response paper from one of the presentations you attend there.

Religious Accommodation:
Participation in official University activities, e.g., an out-of-town athletic event, or special religious observances may provide a legitimate reason for an excused absence. The student is responsible for discussing this with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Professionalism Policy:
Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Be respectful of our guest speakers, and please arrive on time for all class meetings. This is a great opportunity to network with professionals in the natural resources field. After class you are welcome to introduce yourself to the speakers briefly, particularly if their work interests you or is relevant to your own research. As their time may be tight, consider bringing your card to exchange contact information so that you may continue your discussion at a later time. When emailing the instructor or a guest speaker, please include your full name and the course number in your email. If you are following up with a speaker, also include the date, location and topic of their presentation.

Academic Integrity:
The Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship takes academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding "credit be given where credit is due."

If you plagiarize in your work you could lose credit for the plagiarized work, fail the assignment, or fail the course. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog (see page seven, column two: http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf).

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes regular class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, we will ask you to sign the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing all of our major assignments. While you will not be required to sign the honor pledge, we will ask each of you to write and sign the following statement on your papers and exams:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."