International Sustainability Fellowship Program

NRSM 291 Culture and Ecology of Rural Resource Development. This one-credit class is the required course for all International Sustainability Fellows. Students enrolled as Fellows will meet once before their course departure and five times after to synthesize and present on their learning. Students are expected to choose one topic to investigate in depth, which draws from their studies abroad, and prepare a creative public presentation on the topic. Students will also prepare short presentations for each of the course meetings as a way to share insights from their study abroad experiences and make comparisons across regions. Supplemental readings will be discussed in the context of student learning and experiences. Students will also consider how to give back to the region where they studied.

Fall 2014 – Spring 2015 | 15 contact hours | Meets 6 times, 2+ hours each
Meeting dates may change depending on student availability
Class meets in the Clapp Building, room #452, unless otherwise noted

Instructor: Nicky Phear | Office: CHCB 465 | nicky.phear@umontana.edu | 243-6932
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:30-4:00 pm and Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appointment

Sustainability Issues in Vietnam and Chile: Wednesday, February 4, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Map the regions
Students provide an overview of sustainability issues explored
Students share about the diversity of peoples, cultures, and histories
What is sustainability? Concept of sustainable development
Tensions between conservation & development
Confirm research projects/presentations

Ecology, Ecosystems, and Climate Change: Wednesday, February 18, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Diversity of the different regions students studied
What are ecosystem services?
Climate disruption as a driver of change
Population, development, and threats to biodiversity

Human Communities and Natural Resource Management: Wednesday, March 4, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Resource-based livelihoods
Community-based conservation
Different types of conservation & sustainable development strategies and challenges
Different types of protected areas: Public/Private

Leadership & Support for Sustainability Projects: Wednesday, March 18, 5:30–7:30 pm, Clapp 452
Local actors: Universities, government, NGOs, researchers, youth
Global cooperation: Opportunities and responsibilities
Student leadership & lessons learned
Final preparation for projects presentations

Student Presentations: Wednesday, March 25, time and location TBA
Each student will present for 10-15 minutes on their project and key insights
Reception with food from Vietnam and Chile