

Wilderness Expeditions: Journeys in Conservation

Wilderness Issues Lecture Series

RECM 371/EVST 371
Spring 2009
1.0 credit

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM
GBB 106

Course Logistics

- Lectures begin at 7:00 PM, please be prompt and do not leave until the question/answer session is over
- The course is P/NP, you will need to pass 6 papers to pass the course (*see paper assignment below*)
- This series is open to the public – students, faculty, and community members are welcome to attend

Instructor and Course Grader

Laurie Yung, Director, Wilderness Institute

Course Instructor and Series Co-Coordinator, laurie.yung@umontana.edu, 243-6934

Office Hours: By appointment, Main Hall 308

Alayna DuPont, Graduate Student, College of Forestry and Conservation

Series Grader, alayna.dupont@umontna.edu, (253) 579-6463

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:00 pm, CHCB/SC 412

Sarah Potenza, Program Associate, Wilderness Institute

Series Co-Coordinator, sarah.potenza@umontana.edu, 243-6956, Main Hall 304

Course Description

The Wilderness Issues Lecture Series is both a course and a public lecture series. Themes and speakers vary year by year, and the course can be repeated three times for credit.

The 2009 Wilderness Lecture Series, *Wilderness Expeditions: Journeys in Conservation*, will explore the intersection of expeditions, conservation, and sustainable development. Mountaineers, explorers, wildlife biologists, and writers describe how their journeys into remote landscapes advance scientific knowledge, raise awareness, inspire conservation, and catalyze development work. Much more than adventurers, these individuals have pioneered conservation and development programs around the world, working with local communities and international networks to further environmental conservation, sustainable livelihoods, education, and scientific understanding. Lectures span the globe: from the Gobi Desert to the Solomon Islands, from Siberia to the Himalaya, from Alaska to Australia. Tree ants, climate change, indigenous culture, history, religion, and science all play a role in these stories. Speakers include the first woman to reach the North Pole (Helen Thayer), the founder of HEALTH, Inc, a Ladakh-based development organization (Cynthia Hunt), and a National Geographic explorer and writer (Douglas Chadwick). Artwork for the series was generously donated by the Dana Gallery.

Reaction Papers

Students are required to write reaction papers in response to the lectures. Passing papers must:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the lecture and material presented
- Provide an analysis, thoughtful examination, or critique of the material presented and/or
Make substantive connections to other lectures in this series
- Be well-written (grammatically correct) and well-organized

Do not simply summarize or restate the lecture in your paper. You must provide your own analysis and demonstrate some original thinking. You do not need to be comprehensive and address every aspect of the lecture. You may focus on several specific points in depth.

Reaction papers need to be type-written and double-spaced (1-2 pages) (reused/recycled paper is fine). Each paper is graded pass, pass minus, pass plus, or fail. **Students must pass 6 papers to pass the course** (keep in mind that there are only 7 lectures – you may not write a reaction to the series introduction). You may rewrite failed papers within one week of the paper being returned to you. Rewrites must include correction of any errors AND substantive improvement in content.

Papers must be turned in at the end of the following lecture. Graded papers turned in the previous week will be returned at that time. Late paper policy – If you know you will miss the upcoming lecture, you need to turn your paper in prior to the lecture. If you are sick or have an unexpected emergency, you must notify the Series Grader and turn your paper to the Wilderness Institute (Main Hall 303) in by 5:00 PM Wednesday. If papers are not turned in by 5:00 PM Wednesday, you will receive a fail for that paper. The lectures are being taped, but tapes will not be available during spring term. Please do not plan to make up missed classes by listening to taped lectures.

KEEP IN MIND: If you miss class, you will fail the response paper due for that speaker – there is no way to make up a missed lecture. If you miss class and fail to turn in your response paper on the speaker from the week before (which you can turn in before class or by Wednesday at 5:00 PM), you will then fail two papers.

Please note that papers need to be original works, not collaborative efforts between students. Feel free to discuss the lectures with your peers, but written reaction papers must be individual compositions.

Course Schedule

- 1/27 **Introduction to the Series**
- 2/3 No class
- 2/10 **Superorganisms in Einsteinian Space (Tree Ants in Australia) and the Last Rhinos in India**
Douglas H. Chadwick, wildlife biologist, National Geographic reporter, and author of ten books
- 2/17 **Walking the Gobi: Environmental Change in the Mongolian Deser**
Helen Thayer, explorer, conservationists, and first woman to reach the North Pole
- 2/24 **The Razor's Edge: Climate Change, Subsistence Agriculture, and Threatened Cultures in Ladakh, India**
Cynthia Hunt, mountaineer and founder of HEALTH, Inc (Health, Environment, and Literacy in the Himalayas)
- 3/3 **10-Years Tracking Wolves in the Heart of the Canadian Rockies: Conservation Lessons and Wilderness Science**
Mark Hebblewhite, Assistant Professor, Wildlife Biology Program, University of Montana
- 3/10 **Sea Voyage on the Alaska Coast: Retracing the Harriman Expedition of 1899 and Exploring a Century of Change**
Paul Alaback, Professor of Forest Ecology, University of Montana
- 3/17 **Talks with a Siberian Shaman: Viewing Wilderness Through Magic or Logic**
Jon Turk, research chemist turned chicken farmer, horse logger, adventurer, and writer
- 3/24 **Exploring Islands in Time: Accidental Encounters with Wilderness in the Solomon Islands**
Chris Filardi, Biodiversity Scientist, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History