Wilderness and Civilization Program 2014-2015

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Wild Lab
2015 Wilderness Issues Lecture Series

NRSM 371				Tuesdays, 7:10-8:30 PM Spring 2015
Gallagher Business Building, Room 123
1.0 credit

**Course Logistics**
- Lectures begin at 7:10 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 7 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
- Students must remain in class until after the class is completed for the evening, including the question and answer session.

**Course Instructor and Teaching Assistant**
Dr. Natalie Dawson, Director, Faculty, Wilderness Institute and College of Forestry and Conservation, natalie.dawson@umontana.edu, 243-6956, Main Hall 308
Tracy Wendt, Teaching Assistant, Resource Conservation, tracy.wendt@umontana.edu

**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.

This lecture series investigates research in wilderness areas and other wild places by bringing together scientists, writers, adventurers, advocates, and investigative reporters to share stories, challenges, opportunities, and dilemmas from across wild and remote “laboratories” around the world.

*Untrammeled, undeveloped, natural, solitude*- these are the words most frequently used to define not only wilderness areas in the United States, but wild and remote places around the world. Our global population continues to grow and our need for resources continues to expand, however, wilderness areas continue to offer additional values to people as research baselines, study sites, and areas to test new innovative technologies in land restoration, wildlife science, and policy initiatives. These activities are laden with controversy, social valuation, and political strife. However, research in wilderness remains a valuable tool in shaping our understanding of an uncertain future.
Course Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Understand some of the various impacts of humans on wild areas, possible solutions, and the importance of preserving biodiversity;
- Learn about the management of forest fires in wilderness and the important role of fire in wild areas;
- Be able to competently respond to contemporary discussions about social issues involving wilderness, the human-wild interface and solutions to problems arising from these conflicts.

Reaction Papers
Students are required to write reaction papers in response to the lectures. Reaction papers must be two-pages, type-written and double-spaced (double-sided and/or reused paper is fine). These papers MUST use 12-point type font, with 1-inch margins on the left and right sides of the paper. If these guidelines are not followed, you will not receive credit for the paper.

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

Students must provide their own analysis and demonstrate original thinking, and not simply summarize or restate the lecture in their paper. You do not need to be comprehensive and address every aspect of the lecture. Papers can focus on several specific points in depth. Papers need to be original works, not collaborative efforts between students. Students are encouraged to discuss the lectures with their peers, but written reaction papers must be individual compositions.

Each paper is graded pass, pass minus, pass plus, or fail. Students must pass 7 papers to pass the course (keep in mind that there are only 7 lectures). 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 Teaching Assistant, Tracy Wendt (see contact info above), and turn in your paper to Tracy or my office (Main Hall 308) 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.
2015 Wilderness Issues Lecture Series: Wild Lab
Lecture Schedule and Details

February 3rd-“Polar bears, people, and change: Making the abstract tangible” by Dr. Frank Tyro, Board Member and Instructor, Great Bear Foundation

February 10th-“Why Protect Wildlands? The debate over the value of wilderness” by George Wuerthner, Ecologist and Author

February 17th-“It's Bigger than Wilderness: Transformative Realizations from Doing Wilderness Science” by Alan Watson, Research Social Scientist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

No class on February 24th!

March 3rd-“Please carry this solar panel, and other requests for free labor” by Natalie Dawson, UM Wilderness Studies Professor and Director of the UM Wilderness Institute

March 10th-“The Mountain Goat: An American Wilderness Icon” by Bruce Smith, Science Writer and Wildlife Biologist

March 17th-“Wilderness Research Then and Now: The Wilderness Institute’s Fortieth Year” by Bob Ream, Professor Emeritus and First Director of the Wilderness Institute, University of Montana

March 23rd-“Blackfoot River Restoration and Native Trout Recovery in the Scapegoat Wilderness” by Ron Pierce, Fisheries Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks