RENR 465 – A River Runs Through It – Summer Field School
Summer 2019

August 19-30, Yukon Territory

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Class Website: eClass (https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/)

Course Description: The Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences summer field school provides students from northern and southern locations opportunities to explore the natural and cultural history of the Yukon through experiential learning that incorporates interdisciplinary approaches to environmental, social and economic challenges in this region. The course is field-based, built around on a river-trip in central Yukon. In addition to the academic curriculum, students will gain substantial backcountry travel and team-work experience. This is a 3 credit course suitable for senior-level university students enrolled in natural and social science programs.

Prerequisites: Third year standing or higher in a university-level program.

Format: Field exercises emphasize student-centered experiential learning, while benefitting from the wealth of local knowledge present in the Yukon. Students will be based near Whitehorse for the first two days (August 19-20) where they will take part in a two day canoe course. The 21st will be a travel day to the start location, with stops along the way. The following 6 days (August 22-27) will be spent on the Stewart and Yukon Rivers, with excursions to adjacent environments. While along the river, hands-on exercises and discussions will take place, as appropriate to different locales. The group will arrive in Dawson City on August 27th and spend a half day exploring the role of this town in broader Yukon history. On August 28th, students will visit the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Centre in Dawson before heading to Tombstone Territorial Park. Travel back to Whitehorse and a visit at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm will occur on August 29th, with return to Edmonton for southern students on August 30th. The days will be long, and full participation is expected by all students. Course requirements include completion of assigned readings and associated questions in advance, maintaining a journal

during the field school in which daily observations and questions are recorded, and submission of extended responses to questions as a follow-up exercise to the field program.

Required Readings: Required readings drawn from a variety of sources will be provided in advance of the field trip. These readings provide context and basic understanding needed to complete the course and to address assignments. Readings will be provided to students in digital format through the class website.

Course Objectives, Learning Outcomes and Competencies

Field schools provide an opportunity to gain knowledge and practical skills outside the classroom. These courses are integrative and experiential and are generally taken close to the end of a student's program. Objectives for RENR 465 include:

- Exposing students to a diversity of perspectives representing a range of disciplines and considerations relevant to conservation and management of natural and cultural resources in northern Canada.
- Improving the students' professional profile by preparing them to conduct real-world, hands-on activities in remote, northern locations.

Field schools help develop team work experience and ethics, associated with which are the following learning outcomes and competencies:

- Knowledge and application of ethical conduct and professionalism in the pursuit of activities associated with conservation and management of natural and cultural resources in northern Canada.
- Demonstration of effective oral and written communication skills through field and group interactions, assignments, and independent research.

Course Requirements, Marking and Grading

There are no exams in this course. The first assignment associated with required readings will comprise 30% of the final grade for this course, and will be completed in advance of the field component of the course (due date August 16th, 2019). Participation during the field trip, based on teamwork, engagement in all activities and discussions, and professionalism, as well as completion of a field journal documenting daily observations and related questions, will comprise an additional 30% of the final grade. The remaining 40% will be comprised of the final assignment involving extended responses to questions provided during the field component of the course, due on September 30th, 2019 (one month after completion of the field trip).

Policies on Conduct: Students are expected to complete required readings, actively participate in discussions and group activities, and turn in required assignments on time.

Academic Integrity and Code of Student Behaviour

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All University of Alberta students are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at http://www.ualberta.ca/~unisecr/policy/sec30.html. Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure

that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work."

Please speak with the instructors if you have any questions or concerns about the Code, particularly as it pertains to group assignments, internet research, appropriate referencing of source material, using the same work as part of assignments in more than one course, and the definition of plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE (details to be confirmed, pending conditions at the time of the field trip)

Date	Topic
August 16th	Assignment #1 due (responses to required readings)
August 18th	Alberta students arrive in Whitehorse
August 19th-20th	Course Introduction and Overview Canoe Course around Whitehorse (locations to be determined)
August 21st	Travel to Stewart River with stops at significant cultural and ecological areas
August 22nd-27th	Paddle along the Stewart and Yukon Rivers Topics that will be covered during the trip include: ecology, geology and hydrology of the region, natural disturbances and their role in northern ecosystems, socio-cultural history (both indigenous and non-indigenous) and its contemporary relevance in the Yukon (modern treaties, self-governance and co-management); northern resource management and conservation issues; field research methodologies, wildlife and environmental monitoring, preparing a back-country trip, fieldwork in remote locations.
August 27th	Arrival at Dawson City Interpretive tour of Dawson City; significance of the Klondike Region
August 28th	Visit to Tr'ondek Hwech'in Cultural Centre Visit to Tombstone Territorial Park
August 29th	Visit to Tr'ondek Hwech'in Teaching and Learning Farm; drive back to Whitehorse, unpack and organize trip gear.
August 30st	Alberta students depart Whitehorse
September 30th	Final Assignment due (responses to questions provided during field trip)