

The Northern Exposures fall field course will allow students to explore the natural and cultural history of the Yukon and Alaska, and to learn and apply interdisciplinary approaches to environmental, social and economic challenges in this region. Field experience provides a lens for examining the relationships between northern environments and human societies, and identifying appropriate research and management approaches for northern systems.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of this course students will have been exposed 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 and Alaska. Field schools also help develop team work experience and ethics associated with knowledge and application of ethical conduct and professionalism in the pursuit of activities associated with natural and cultural resources in northern Canada. Students will establish effective oral and written communication skills through field and group interactions, assignments and independent research.

COURSE FORMAT (Field Course):

The course consists of student-centered experiential learning gained while exploring a suite of Yukon and Alaskan natural and cultural sites. Students will be based near Whitehorse for the first two days (November 8-9) and then travel to Haines, AK (November 10-12), Haines Junction (November 12-14) and back to Whitehorse (November 14-15). There will be stops along the way to visit natural and culturally relevant sites. Activities (e.g., walks, hikes, guided visits) and discussions will vary according to the different locales. Topics covered will include: ecosystems, geology and paleo-history of the Yukon and Alaska, wildlife (fish and game) management, First Nations of the Yukon and self-governance, economic and natural resource development, significance of the Klondike Gold Rush, and research approaches in natural and social sciences. 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 daily journal during the field school in which observations and questions are recorded, and submission of extended responses to daily questions as a follow-up final assignment to the field program.

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND/OR CO-REQUISITES:

Students will normally have third year or higher standing in a university-level program, and *9 in biological or ecological topics.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS:

There is no textbook for this course. Required readings drawn from a variety of sources will be provided in advance of the field component of the course. 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 (eClass see below).

COURSE WEBSITE

Relevant readings and associated course materials (e.g. assignments) will be posted on the UAlberta eClass website for this course.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Academic Integrity

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. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Code of Student Behaviour

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/resources/policies-standards-and-codes-of-conduct/code-of-student-behaviour>. 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.

PROFESSIONALISM AND CLASSROOM RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Students are expected to participate fully in all activities during the field course. Students are expected to be punctual, engaged and courteous to peers, instructors, staff and hosts. Please do not use cellular phones during class or discussions.

U of Alberta's Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:

Assignments, Attendance and Participation

Evaluation for the course is based upon assignments and participation. There are no exams. Assignment #1 (30%) is a series of answers to questions based upon the required readings as well as the completion of an online course (First Nations 101). This assignment provides background information and basis for the rest of the field course and will be completed in advance of the field component of the course (due date November 4, 2019). Participation during the field course, based on teamwork, engagement in all activities and discussions and professionalism is an important and significant component of the course (15%). Assignment #2 is the maintenance of a field journal in which daily observations and related questions will be documented (15%). It will be due on the last day of the field course (November 15, 2019). The final assignment (Assignment #3) will be comprised of the extended responses to questions posed during the field course (40%; due date December 15, 2019).

Due Dates and Late Assignments

Due dates for assignments are included in the above section. A penalty of -5% per day will be applied to late assignments.

Evaluation

The course grade will be determined as follows:

	Due Date	Percent
Assignment #1 Required Readings	Nov 4, 2019	30
Assignment #2 Field Journal	Nov 15, 2019	15
Assignment #3 Field Course Questions	Dec 15, 2019	40
Participation, engagement and professionalism		15
Total		100

Assignment of Grades

The total numerical score will be converted to a final letter grade. The following table outlines how numerical course scorers will be converted into course grades, consistent with the University of Alberta Assessment Policy and Grading Procedure. Grades reflect judgements of student achievement made by the instructor and may be based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class.

Descriptor	Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value
Excellent	95-100	A+	4.0
	90-94	A	4.0
	85-89	A-	3.7
Good	79-84	B+	3.3
	75-78	B	3.0
	71-74	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	67-70	C+	2.3
	64-66	C	2.0
	60-63	C-	1.7
Poor	55-59	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50-54	D	1.0
Failure	0-49	F	0.0

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: and RECORDING OF LECTURES, LABS, ETC.:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED, PENDING CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE FIELD TRIP)

Date	Location and Topic
November 8	Alberta students arrive in Whitehorse
November 9	Course introduction and overview Visit to Beringia Interpretative Centre and other Whitehorse locations
November 10/11	Travel to Haines, AK with stops at significant cultural and ecological areas. Wildlife management, Bald eagle rehabilitation center, Salmon fisheries, local hikes
November 12-14	Travel to Haines Junction, YT with stops at cultural and ecological areas. Klukshu, Kluane Interpretative Centre and Da Ku Cultural Centre Thachal Dhal – Kluane National Park, Shepherd’s Knoll Hike, Kluane Lake, Slims River
November 14 afternoon	Travel to Whitehorse
November 15	Course wrap-up Whitehorse city visit Flight back to Edmonton