

**APPLIED SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**RRMT 200**

**Field Methods**

**3 credits**

**Winter, 2021**

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## COURSE OUTLINE

**RRMT 200**  
**Field Methods**

**3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Scott Gilbert, Instructor

DATE: March 17, 2021

APPROVED BY: Joel Cubley, Chair, School of Science

DATE: April 19, 2021



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## FIELD METHODS

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Scott Gilbert, B.Sc., PhD    **OFFICE HOURS:** via Zoom or in-person by email arrangement

**OFFICE LOCATION:** A2515

**CLASSES:** field exercises combined with lab work and computer work for data entry and analysis

**E-MAIL:** [sgilbert@yukonu.ca](mailto:sgilbert@yukonu.ca)

**TIME: Lecture:** 9:00 – 17:00 with some exceptions for early mornings or evening study

**TELEPHONE:** 867-668-8776

**DATES:** April 27-May 1, May 3-7, 2021

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will visit actual or proposed sites of natural resource use and will practice field skills relevant to the management of renewable resources. Techniques practiced will vary according to sites visited but will encompass a wide range of inventory and assessment tasks related to the management of fish, wildlife, water, forest and land resources and may include the analysis of past and current management practices and problem-solving exercises.

### PREREQUISITES

Registered in the second year of the Renewable Resources Management Program or have permission of the instructor.

### RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will require a suitable computer with a stable internet connection to access some of the online learning modules on Moodle. Each student will need a laptop running Microsoft Excel that they can use for data entry and analysis on days when the computer lab is unavailable. Students must be dressed to work comfortably in the field in all weather conditions; our expectation is that the ground cover will consist of snow and wet ground.

### **EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

Receiving institutions determine course transferability. Find further information at:

<https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of this course students will:

- gain knowledge of how natural resources are used, harvested or extracted and of the resultant environmental impacts;
- be able to carry out basic ecosystem inventory, analysis and assessment tasks;
- develop an attitude that recognizes the importance of conservation and sustainable development of natural resources while respecting community needs and aspirations.

### **COURSE FORMAT**

The practical focus of this course incorporates mandatory field and lab activities. Daily activities will generally start in the classroom with a short introduction to techniques and theory. This will be followed by fieldwork in which sampling and data collection techniques are practised. Data entry and analysis will occur at the end of the day. Although the course is scheduled to run from 0900 to 1700 hours daily there may be times when the class is on site (e.g. bird surveys) or attending a presentation outside of these times. Students will be expected to spend two hours or more each evening completing field reports from the day's work, reviewing material online using Moodle (e.g. assignments and readings) and preparing for the next day's activities. The course will be flexible to accommodate weather and the schedules of local resource people we will be meeting.

### **EVALUATION**

Attendance and participation is mandatory given the experiential focus of the course.

#### **Assignments**

Students will keep a daily field journal and prepare several assignments based on readings and online materials. Students will prepare one formal report based on data they help collect in the field.

**EVALUATION:**

3 online modules @5%	15%
Formal lab report	15%
Journal	10%
Assignments	15%
Participation	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

**TEXTBOOKS AND LEARNING MATERIALS**

There is no required text for this course although students will need a bound notebook for a journal and a waterproof notebook (e.g. Rite in the Rain) to carry in the field. A field guide for birds in print or as a phone app would be helpful.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures for further details about academic standing and student rights and responsibilities.

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has

previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

### **YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY**

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see [www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr](http://www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr).

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

This course involves experiential learning and students should be capable of hiking 5 km on rough trails carrying their personal daypack, using chest waders to work in waterways collecting samples, using a compass and binoculars to carry out bird transects.

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca](mailto:LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca).

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**Tentative Schedule and Topic Outline -**

***Draft – Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> – entries in red are to be confirmed***

<b>Apr-27</b>	Tues	Class orientation - Room TBD, clinometer review	10:30 – 2:30 Whistle Bend forest measurements	3:00-5:00 A2702 work on raw data sheet for swan exercise
<b>Apr-28</b>	Wed	Lv for Swan Haven		2:30-5:00 A2702 Data entry and analysis of swan data
<b>Apr-29</b>	Thurs	McIntyre Ck study – cavity nest survey with Katie Aitken		3:00 – 5:00 A2702 Small Group project
<b>Apr-30</b>	Fri	McIntyre Ck - acoustical recorder unit deployment with Daniel Yip	Biology Lab: Terrestrial Insect identification and Malaise trap construction with Tara Stehelin and guest Syd Cannings from CWS	
<b>May-1</b>	Sat	McIntyre Ck study – pick up, clean and move camera traps to new sites		
	Sun	Day off – work on assignments and readings		
<b>May-3</b>	Mon	<b>Bird exercise if weather permits</b>	1:30 City of Whitehorse Solid Waste Facility tour – complete remaining field deployments	
<b>May-4</b>	Tues	Glass Class 9:00-11:30 Invasive Species ID with Denise Gordon (YISC)	12:30 → GeoTech Lab (T1090) Groundwater hydrology with Joel Cubley and Mary Samolczyk	
<b>May-5</b>	Wed	<b>Small Project presentations?</b>	McIntyre Ck study - Set out bat detectors with Brian Slough	A2702 – data entry
<b>May-6</b>	Thurs	<b>EMR – land inspections?</b>	Whse Copper Tailings / Arctic Chief <u>if</u> snow free	
<b>May-7</b>	Fri	<b>Land treatment facility tour?</b>	1:00 PM Final Exam Room TBD	4:00 Clean & return gear