



School of Science
RRMT 201
Winter Travel and Survival

Term: Winter 2025
Number of Credits: 0

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Logan Sherk, Ryan Agar

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Telephone: please contact the School of Science (867) 668-8887

Classroom: A2101 and outside

Dates: *Dates are weather and equipment dependent*, tentatively: Fridays Feb. 14th, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, Feb. 28th full day. Snowmobile training March 7th and March 14th and one other day, March 28th?

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a non-credit field course to help prepare students for working and travelling in the wilderness in winter by providing basic training and practice in wilderness travel, survival and dealing with emergencies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): Registration in the Renewable Resources Management program, or permission from the course instructor.

Significant sections of this course take place outdoors in winter conditions. During field days, students should expect to spend the majority of the day outside.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

In order to safely participate in this course students should have a reasonable level of personal fitness. At a minimum, students should be able to:

- travel on foot in winter conditions at a pace of 2 km per hour for up to four hours while carrying a 20-pound pack.

EQUIPMENT

Students are required to have appropriate personal equipment and clothing to work and travel safely in winter conditions for three to four hours at temperatures that may be below -20 °C. Every student must have their own 30 – 40 L backpack for personal and group gear.

A gear list is provided as a guide. If uncertain, students should communicate with the instructor *before* the first class.

Gear Lists

Clothing

- () Wool and/or Synthetic Socks
- () Base Layer Top - Synthetic, wool or silk
- () Base Layer Bottoms - Synthetic, wool or silk
- () Mid-Insulation Layer Top - Pile (fleece), light synthetic fill or wool sweater/jacket
- () Mid-Insulation Layer Bottom - Pile pants or multipurpose pants
- () Light Wind Shell - Windproof, water resistant layer for high aerobic work
- () Weather Layer Top - Gore-Tex or other waterproof breathable jacket
- () Weather Layer Pants - Gore-Tex or other waterproof breathable pants
- () Warm Outer Jacket - Down or synthetic
- () Toque - Wool or Synthetic
- () Face Warmer - Scarf, neck tube, face mask
- () Light Gloves - Wool, synthetic or leather
- () Insulated Gloves or Mitts - Wool or synthetic, w/ weather proof outershell
- () Gaiters - if pants do not secure over boots
- () Insulated hiking boots or winter boots

Personal Equipment

- () Pack - Light, and comfortable, 30-40 litres
- () Sunglasses
- () Sun and Lip Cream
- () Head Lamp
- () Insulated Water Bottle or Thermos
- () Lunch
- () Blister Kit
- () Individual First Aid Kit (IFAC)
- () Pocket Knife
- () Camera - *Optional*
- () Binoculars - *Optional*

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This is a non-credit course and would not transfer as a credit course to other institutions. Receiving institutions determine course transferability

Successful completion of this course is required for graduation from the Renewable Resources Management diploma program.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have knowledge of and be able to practice at a basic level:

- planning and preparation for winter wilderness survival in terms of clothing, shelter, water, food, emergency kits and psychological factors,
- tips and suggestions for winter camping,

- winter travel using skis or snowshoes,
- building of snow or brush shelters,
- recognition and first aid for hypothermia and frostbite,
- safe operation, loading and unloading of A.T.V.'s or snowmobiles,
- safe travel on snow and river and lake ice, and
- wilderness ethics.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will blend face-to-face lecture delivery with practical application of knowledge in a winter setting. On two Friday afternoons (Feb. 14 and 28th **to be confirmed!**), students will have theory presentations and hands-on practice on campus, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. This will alternative with full-day Saturday field instruction (on Feb. 28 or other date, and on *either* Saturday, March 11th or 18th)- students will participate in a full-day (7 hour), mandatory ATV or snowmobile safety course delivered by a Yukon Government instructor. More details to follow at the start of the course and on the Moodle site.

Weekly breakdown of instructional hours

Delivery format

Face-to-face

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is mandatory at all lecture and field sessions. Every student is expected to actively participate in class activities; attendance alone does not result in full marks for the participation component.

Assignments

Each student is required to develop and submit a Winter Work/Travel Safety Plan, in advance of their final field outing. Additional details will be provided in class.

Tests

Students will be assessed in the field on demonstrated ability to complete essential tasks such as:

- building a fire
- constructing improvised shelters
- layering and moisture management
- travelling safely in winter terrain

EVALUATION:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Winter Work/Travel Safety Plan | 15% |
| Participation | 40% |
| Demonstrate Competency | 45% |
| Total | 100% |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

There is no required textbook, but it is recommended that students acquire the following resource for supplementary background reading.

Alford, Monty. Winter Wise. Travel and Survival in Snow and Ice. Heritage House Publishing Co. Ltd: Victoria, British Columbia. 168 p.

ATV or Snowmobile Operators Course

RRMT 201 includes at no extra cost a snowmobile operators course or (weather depending) The Canada Safety Council ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) OPERATORS COURSE". This entails one introductory classroom session (to be scheduled) and one full-day practical session.

Students can bring personal ATVs's if they wish, but they must be operational, registered, insured, and used with a helmet. Please notify the course instructor in advance if you are bringing a personal machine. Otherwise, ATVs will be provided at no charge.

On the full day practical session, students are expected to dress accordingly for the conditions and be able to spend a full day outside (i.e. no running shoes, only winter footwear!). Students will also need a lunch. Transportation to the field site is provided and encouraged. Students must operate snowmobiles in a safe and responsible manner, wear helmets, and follow directions of instructor(s). Failure to do so will prohibit participation. Snowmobile training is dependent on weather conditions, and marginal or hazardous weather could require this component be cancelled.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates.

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.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact [Accessibility Services](#) for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE and SCHEDULE

| Date* | Time | Location | Topic |
|--------------|-------------|---|---|
| Feb. 14 | 1 – 4:00 PM | On-campus A2101/outside | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Your Trip • Strategies and Tactics for Staying Warm • Identifying cold emergencies |
| Feb. 28 | 9 AM – 4 PM | Meet in A2101 Field: Practice and evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters • Fire building • Winter Travel • Layering and Moisture Management • Winter Terrain Identification |
| March 7 | 1 – 4:00 PM | On-campus A2101 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for Winter Travel • Psychology of Survival • Calling for Help |
| March 14 | 9 AM – 5 PM | Field all day | Sumanik ridge navigation and hike-out |
| March 21 | 9 AM – 4 PM | Classroom and Field | Snowmobile course Day 2 exam |
| March 28 | 9 AM – 4 PM | Field | Snowmobile course extra day if needed |

**Dates are tentative and subject to change depending on weather and other factors.*