

NR 8107 Syllabus (Fall 2017)
Seminar: Natural Resources Science and Management (1 credit)

Background: All Natural Resources Science and Management graduate students must complete a one-credit seminar course in which a presentation is required of each student some time throughout the course of the semester. Each student must receive formal written peer and instructor feedback on this presentation.

Meeting time/location: Wednesdays 3:00-3:50 p.m., room 203 Green Hall

Prerequisite: Graduate student standing near the end of their program.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory at all sessions. In the event of an absence (e.g., conference travel, illness), please email the instructor ahead of time.

Format: Graduate student and guest presentations; evaluation assignments

Web access: Moodle site: <https://ay17.moodle.umn.edu/course/view.php?id=1236>

Instructors: Matt Russell (russellm@umn.edu), room 220E Green Hall, ph: 612-626-4280, cell/txt: 845-705-4572; Office hours by appointment

Student audience: Natural Resources Science and Management graduate students in the following program tracks: Assessment, Monitoring, and Geospatial Analysis; Economics, Policy, Management, and Society; Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management; Forest Products; Forests: Biology, Ecology, Conservation, and Management; Paper Science and Engineering, Recreation Resources, Tourism, and Environmental Education; Wildlife Ecology and Management.

Course outcomes: After completing the seminar, you will: (1) develop abilities in communicating your research results to fellow UMN graduate students, faculty, staff, and natural resource managers, (2) gain proficiencies in communicating natural resource problems and their solutions as shown through your research, and (3) acquire skills in critiquing the presentation of research in the natural resources disciplines conducted by your peers.

Assignments:

1. Oral presentation and seminar hosting (50% of grade)

All students are expected to deliver at least **one oral presentation** on their research at some point during the semester. This presentation should introduce the research questions being examined, describe the methods used to conduct the research, showcase results (using figures and graphics as appropriate), and provide a discussion of the implications of the research to natural resource managers. For MS students, this presentation should be **20 minutes in length** with 5 minutes for questions and discussion. For PhD students, this presentation should be **40 minutes in length** with 5 to 10 minutes for questions and discussion. PhD student presentations will occupy an entire class session; two MS student presentations will occupy an entire class session.

Two weeks prior to your presentation, send an email to Colleen O'Connor (coconnor@umn.edu) and the instructor (russellm@umn.edu) with a no more than **250-word abstract** of your presentation. The abstract should be written to attract a general audience of practitioners in the natural resource disciplines, so avoid jargon to the best of your ability. This should include a title, your name and degree program (e.g., MS or PhD), and the 250-word abstract. It is assumed the student will use their own laptop for their presentation.

In addition to presenting, you will sign up and serve as **seminar host** for at least one presentation. Roles of seminar hosts include ensuring that the projector and laptop are set up in advance of the start time, introducing the presenter, and asking for and moderating questions from the audience. This is important to make the speaker feel welcome, provide background information on the speaker that builds their credibility, and set the tone for the seminar.

2. Peer evaluation forms (25% of grade)

After each presentation, fill out a Google Form with your **evaluation on the presentation**. Be critical, but be respectful. The form inquires about presentation strengths and suggestions for improvement. Filling out a form will serve as your attendance for the session. Results from the form will be shared with the presenter. The form is found at <http://z.umn.edu/nr8107eval>

3. Flipgrid responses (25% of grade)

The instructor will ask you to respond to questions using interactive **Flipgrid videos**. Questions will be related to general topics brought up in student and guest presentations.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined based on your presentation, contribution to hosting, response to all peer evaluations, completion of Flipgrid videos, and class participation.

Policy on students with disabilities:

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide access and assist with reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DRC at 612-626-1333 or drc@umn.edu to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. Any student with a documented disability condition who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact me within one week of the beginning of the semester. You should also contact Disability Services on campus if you haven't already done so: <https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/home>.

Honor system and academic integrity:

As a member of the University community you are expected to engage in the highest level of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please visit the University's site on academic integrity: <http://www.oscai.umn.edu/>. The UMN library recommends this guide on plagiarism: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>. Anyone or any team who copies all or part of the work of others in this class (or the work of others from previous classes) will receive a grade of 'F' for the class.

Student mental health and stress management

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/>.