School of Science

RRMT 200
Field Methods

Spring 2023

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Scott Gilbert, BSc., Ph.D.

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OFFICE HOURS: Tues/ Thurs 10:30-11:30 or other times by request (using email).

CLASSES: August 19 Ayamdigut 9:00-17:00 in Room A2103;

Aug 20 – 22 – Field work in Kluane area
Aug 23 – Aug 28 – Field work in the Central Yukon (Faro and Mayo area)
Aug 29 – Aug 30 – Field work in the Whitehorse area

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 must be dressed to work comfortably in the field in all weather conditions. Students will be responsible for bringing and preparing their own food during the trip and are encouraged to form in groups to share cooking tasks. On most nights we will be staying in government campgrounds. Students may wish to bring some pocket money to buy the occasional meal from a restaurant if our journey takes us through a community at supper time.

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
This course will pursue an experiential approach to learning by taking students to visit areas where different resources are used or managed. These sites will include visits to locations where resources are extracted (e.g. a hard rock mine, placer mine, logging operations), managed (e.g. a salmon enumeration, protected areas, landfills, soil remediation facility) or used for commercial purposes (e.g. agricultural operation, hydro dam, various types of right of ways for utilities). Students will prepare a final report that summarizes the types of activities they have observed, the potential impacts of those activities as well as best management practices that could foster sustainability.

After most visits students will be given short assignments to help focus their observations. At most sites local experts or resource people will share their knowledge and experience.

Although the course is scheduled to run from 0900 to 1700 hours daily there may be times when the class is on site, attending a presentation or traveling outside of these times. Evenings will typically be taken up with completing assignments. 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 during the course will hand in several written assignments based on readings to prepare for a site visit or answering short questions posted after sites visits. Marks for participation may include demonstrating competence in practical techniques. Participation marks may be deducted for serious errors in data collecting (e.g. missing data sets, illegible field notes, and unlabelled samples) or forgetting important field equipment. Students will prepare one formal report after they return which will be due September 6.

EVALUATION:

3 online modules @5%	15%
Journal	15%
Assignments	30%
Participation	20%
Final report	20%
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.

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.

This course involves experiential learning and students should be capable of hiking 5 km on rough trails carrying their personal daypack, using a compass and binoculars to monitor wildlife.

RRMT 200 – Suggested Gear and Personal Equipment

Anything can happen with weather in late August and it is essential you have clothing that will keep you warm, dry and able to work in any conditions. Clothing in layers is more adaptable than heavy outer garments and it is advisable to have some clothes which provide insulation when wet; such as polypropylene, fleece or wool.

Minimum requirements are:

- PPE - you must have a pair of safety boots (buy or borrow) that you can wear when we visit mine sites in the 2nd week.
- 2 prs. sturdy pants & shirts
- 3 prs. wool socks and 3 lighter pairs
- pile or fleece jacket, or a thick wool sweater
- windproof jacket or shell
- hat or toque
- work gloves (!)
- Underwear and sleepwear.
- hiking boots, rubber boots (a must!!) and running shoes
- rain gear: good quality with pants and a hood – absolute requirement!!
- personal toiletry kit, towel
- personal whistle and first aid kit for minor cuts and blisters, insect repellent
- headlamp and spare batteries – it gets dark by 10 PM

CAMPING GEAR

- tent (can be borrowed from the University with advanced notice)
- sleeping bag (a liner is recommended) and sleeping pad
- backpack for day hikes with 1 litre water bottle, emergency firestarter, snacks
- cooking pot, eating utensils, food for several days – grocery resupply uncertain
- bear spray (can be borrowed from the University)

REFERENCE AND STUDY MATERIAL

- waterproof pocket notebook and pencil – required!
- digital camera (phone) with backup power (REQUIRED for Final Report Assignment!)

- separate notebook suitable for use as a journal – required!
- 3-ringed binder to hold handouts with loose-leaf paper you can use for assignments

OPTIONAL
- shorts and /or bathing suit
- GPS, compass,
- binoculars - highly recommended – try and borrow a pair if you can
- sunglasses and sun block

Tentative Schedule and Topic Outline -

Provided on Day 1 during Orientation