



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



REN R 465 – Fall 2021

NORTHERN EXPOSURES FIELD SCHOOL

In Fall 2021, REN R 465 Northern Exposures Field School is being offered as part of the Northern Environmental and Conservation Sciences, B.Sc. Program partnered with Yukon University. All students registered in REN R 465 must adhere to the requirements outlined in this course syllabus, and be aware of, and adhere to, the University's Code of Student Behaviour, referenced in the outline.

INSTRUCTOR(S): **Paul McCarney** **Gabriel Rivest**
Northern ENCS Program Field and Outreach Coordinator
Applied Sciences, Yukon University / Renewable Resources, UAlberta

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: Yukon Research Centre, NR 28/30, Yukon University, Whitehorse

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CLASS DAYS & TIMES: November 5-14, 2021 (field components), with additional course requirements prior and subsequent to field time.

CLASS LOCATION: Environs of Whitehorse and Haines Junction, YT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Field trip studies with a focus on environmental and conservation biology topics. Course content and offerings vary from year to year. Prerequisite: *9 in biological or ecological topics. Credit may be obtained for only one of REN R 465 or ENCS 465. Requires payment of additional student

instructional support fees. Refer to the Fees Payment Guide in the University Regulations and Information for Students section of the Calendar.

The Northern Exposures fall field course will allow students to explore the natural and cultural history of the Yukon 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 teamwork 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 natural and cultural sites. Students will be based near Whitehorse for the first two days (November 5-7) and then travel to Haines Junction (November 8-12), and back to Whitehorse (November 13-14). 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, 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:

Assignments, Attendance and Participation

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

Evaluation for the course is based on assignments and participation. There are no exams. Assignment #1 is a series of answers to questions based on the required readings. 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 (20%; due date November 5, 2021). 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 (30%). Assignment #2 is the maintenance of a field journal in which you should document and reflect on daily observations and related questions (10%; due date November 14, 2021). The final assignment (Assignment #3) will be comprised of extended responses to questions generated from the field course (40%; due date December 17, 2021).

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 5, 2021	20
Assignment #2 Field Journal	Nov 14, 2021	10
Assignment #3 Field Course Questions	Dec 17, 2021	40
Participation, engagement and professionalism		30
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 5	Alberta students arrive in Whitehorse
November 6	Course introduction and overview Visit to Beringia Interpretative Centre and other Whitehorse locations
November 7	Visit to Wildlife Preserve and guest talks
November 8-12	Travel to Haines Junction, YT with stops at cultural and ecological areas. Hiking near Haines Junction and Kluane National Park. Visits to Kluane Lake Research Station, guest talks by various people involved in fish and wildlife issues, Parks Canada, and others.
November 13	Travel to Whitehorse
November 14	Course wrap-up Whitehorse city visit Flight back to Edmonton