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RSCN 398.01: Wilderness and Civilization Internship / Service Learning

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**Wilderness and Civilization Internship/Service Learning
Resource Conservation 398
Spring 2010**

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Course Objective

The purpose of the Internship is to give students an opportunity to gain hands-on, "real world" experience working with community organizations and land management agencies. This internship program is designed to give students a chance to apply the ideas and concepts studied in the Wilderness and Civilization Program and to work with specific projects and organizations in and around Missoula.

This internship class fulfills the requirements of a Service Learning course. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty, and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students' understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Course Requirements

Work

Students are required to work with their organization six hours a week throughout the semester.

Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held three times during the semester as follows:

- Monday, January 25 from 5:00-6:00 pm in Main Hall 210. Introduction to the internship, outline of requirements, meet and create work schedule with supervisor.
- Mid-term evaluation of internship. Students meet individually or in small groups with faculty advisor. To be arranged.
- Tuesday, May 4 from 7:10-8:30 pm in JRH 205. Final wrap-up and discussion of internship experience with students and faculty advisor only.

Mid-term Final Evaluations (distributed electronically through Internship Services)

Mid-term evaluations are completed by the student and are due in late March; final evaluations are due May 7.

Final Paper

A 4-5 page final paper about the student's internship experience will be due May 4. A description of the final paper will be emailed to students in advance.

Grading

Students will be graded on a P/NP basis. In order to Pass all above requirements must be completed.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm?page?1321>.

Sample Internships

Appropriate project areas include, but are not limited to, research, education, publication, organizing, management, and writing. Possible projects include natural history education, land management practices, legislative work, or field studies. Past projects have included coordinating a sage grouse survey for the National Wildlife Federation; developing environmental education programs for school groups through the Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resource; illustrating a plant guide book for the Boone and Crocket Club; preparing beds and planting crops for Clark Fork Organics; and researching information for Wilderness Watch.

The following is a list, by category, of past organizations where students have interned:

Agency Work:

Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit –
Rocky Mountains
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness
Training Center
USFS, Northern Region, Wilderness and
Recreation Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Environmental Education Work:

Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources
(BEAR)
Blackfoot Challenge
Flagship Program at the Alternative Willard
School
Great Bear Foundation
Hill and Homestead Preservation Council
Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures
Montana Natural History Center
International Wildlife Media Center and
Film Festival
Watershed Education Network

Advocacy Work

Global Warming Coalition
Wildlands CPR
Wilderness Watch
Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE)

Community, Agriculture and Sustainability Work:

Clark Fork Organics
Home Resource
Missoula Food Bank
Missoula Urban Demonstration Project
(MUD)
Missoula Institute for Sustainable
Transportation (MIST)
North Slope Sustainable Wood. Inc
Sustainable Living Systems
Wildland Conservation Services

Field Ecology Work

UM Noxious Weed Program
Missoula County Weed District
Bitterroot Restoration, Inc.
Missoula Parks and Recreation
Montana Audubon
National Wildlife Federation
Owl Research Institute