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9-2013

SCN 195.01: Montana Ecosystems Teaching Assistant

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Recommended Citation

Peters, Gregory, "SCN 195.01: Montana Ecosystems Teaching Assistant" (2013). *Syllabi*. 296.
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Class Meets: Section 01: F 9:10-11:00 in AD 05
Section 02: F 11:10-1:00 in AD 05
Section 03: F 1:10-3:00 in HB 07

Instructor: Greg Peters. Contact: greg.peters@mso.umt.edu or (406) 207-6154

Office hours: Mon-Thurs, 12:30-1:30 in HB02 at Missoula College

Required text: *Custom Lab manual available through Missoula College bookstore only*

Course Responsibilities:

Thank you for helping instruct the SCN 105N: *Montana Ecosystems* laboratory activities. Teaching is a wonderful way to continue learning, and this course is designed to help you gain experience with the organization, direction, and evaluation of laboratory education. The core responsibilities of the *Montana Ecosystems* lab TA are to assist the instructor in guiding student lab activities and drive vehicles for field trips. Specific tasks will be outlined during the weekly lab prep meetings. Attending the lecture portion of the course is optional.

Course credit:

Enrollment in SCN 195 is required for *Montana Ecosystems* TAs. One university credit will be assigned for each section of lab instructed. Please make sure to contact your instructor with any questions about registration. University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced in this course. Please note that after the 45th day of the semester, such changes are NOT automatically approved.

Grading:

The TA experience is graded. Grading will be based upon these expectations:

- TA will attend regular lab preparation meetings
- TA will attend all labs. Advance notice will be given for any absences & substitution will be coordinated with other TAs.
- TA will arrive early and well prepared for each lab
- TA will help set up lab materials for students
- TA will offer respectful guidance and feedback for students
- TA will regularly complete necessary paperwork and timesheets
- TA will maintain highly safe driving habits during field trips

A = TA meets the above expectations
B = TA misses 1-2 of the expectations
C = TA misses 3-4 of the expectations
D, F Please, let's just not find out what this would look like

Lab Schedule

Date:	Topic:	Assignment due:
8/30	Lab: intro to lab & scientific investigation	
9/6	Field Lab 1A: Montane forests	
9/13	Field Lab 1B: Montane Forests	
9/20	Field Lab 2A: Grasslands	Lab Report 1
9/27	Field Lab 2B: Grasslands	
10/4	Field Lab 3A: Floodplain Forests	Lab Report 2
10/11	Field Lab 3B: Floodplain Forests	
10/18	Lab: Montana Conifers	Lab Report 3
10/25	Lab: Your Montana Special Spot project	Conifer Key due
11/1	Lab: Montana Ecosystem Maps	Your MT spot
11/8	Lab: Prep for student presentations	Maps Due
11/15	Lab: Student presentations, Group A	
11/22	Lab: Student presentations, Group B	
11/29	<i>No class: Thanksgiving Day Holiday</i>	
12/6	Lab: Wrap-up and Final Exam review	

Instruction:

As part of the teaching experience, each TA will be given the opportunity to lead one or more lab activities. Discuss your interest in leading a lab activity with the instructor.