Course Description

From the USU Catalog: Through a combination of in- and out-of-classroom activities, students develop an understanding of curriculum requirements and career opportunities associated with the Natural Resources majors. Students will also be introduced to natural resource management issues and research involving multiple disciplines.

My description: This course will provide foundational information and instruction to help you better organize your professional student lives while at USU in the QCNR, to enable your success at USU and after. My primary objective is to help you become intentionally engaged with QCNR, so that you leave us down the road with the best experience you could have had.

Fees

There will be no course fee for Fall 2020. In prior years, a course fee covered student participation in three field trips. Due to COVID-19 precautions, we will not have these large-group, organized field trips.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Articulate an understanding of and appreciation for the various majors and careers included in Natural Resources at USU.
2. Recognize the broader social context and purpose of work in natural resources.
3. Understand your major and University Studies requirements, the importance of prerequisites and course sequences, and having a plan that will lead to graduation.
4. Articulate how your interests relate to fields covered under the QCNR and the contours of your own journey in natural resources and environmental studies/sciences.
5. Engage in college opportunities outside the classroom, including with upper-division students through participation in student organization activities.
6. Advance in the college with a cohort of student colleagues (friends even) to make your college experience and career more enjoyable and productive.
7. Communicate your ideas more effectively, and communicate specifically with faculty.
8. Compose effective federal and traditional resumes.

Instructor

Claudia Radel, PhD, claudia.radel@usu.edu, 435-797-0516
Office: NR 104A (enter thru NR 108)
Office Hours: by appointment, all via Zoom this semester

Course Requirements
Your active participation in the course is requested. I expect you to attend our synchronous class meetings over Zoom and to join prepared with any assignments or readings completed. In addition to attending class, you will complete the following assignments as a part of this course (listed below).

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student pre-course and post-course surveys</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic advisor meeting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty advisor meeting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAJobs and resume assignments</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student organization activity participation (2)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QCNR majors assignment</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading reflections (4)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course evaluation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Scheme**

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92% to 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89% to 87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86% to 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82% to 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79% to 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76% to 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72% to 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69% to 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66% to 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% to 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance and Excused Absences Policy**

Your attendance is expected. Please alert me to your need for an excused absence. I have set Zoom up so you need to register for each class meeting. This is supposed to generate an attendance report for me.

**USU Shared Syllabus Content Follows:**

**Library Services**

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. ([http://libguides.usu.edu/rc](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc))

**Classroom Civility**

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 ([https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5)) for more information.

**University Policies & Procedures**

**COVID-19 Classroom Protocols**

In order to continue to provide a high standard of instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols during the fall 2020 semester. These protocols are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the rest of the campus community. You will be asked to clean your desk area at the start of each class, sit in designated seats, wear face coverings, and follow dismission instructions. There may be individual medical circumstances that prevent some students from using face coverings. These circumstances will be rare, but if they do exist, we ask that everyone be respectful. It is imperative that we each do our part so that on-campus instruction can continue.

**Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**
Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 ([http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf](http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf)) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

**Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity ([https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6))

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 ([http://www.usu.edu/policies/339](http://www.usu.edu/policies/339)) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.
The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Office of Equity (https://equity.usu.edu/) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

**Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost’s Office Diversity Resources: https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity (https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)

**Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).
Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)
- USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures (http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm)

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. 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 your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (https://counseling.usu.edu).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.