

FOR 445 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PRACTICUM

Introduction: The goal of this practicum is for students to gain real-world experience in the practice of ecological restoration. Students will independently design and implement aspects of a restoration plan for a CFC-maintained property (e.g. Lubrecht, Bandy Ranch), private entity, nonprofit group, management agency or other sponsor. Prior to registering for the practicum, students must have a faculty-approved practicum proposal, developed in collaboration with a potential sponsor (ideally this will be done as the final project for FOR444 Integrative Ecological Restoration). Students will only be able to register after faculty approval of the proposal. The faculty mentor will provide advice on potential practicum projects, but final responsibility for arranging sponsor, time, and place rests with the student. A list of potential sponsors (e.g., Lubrecht, Bandy Ranch, Clark Fork Coalition, Five Valley's Land Trust, Geum Consulting) will be posted on the CFC website.

Instructor:

Dr. Cara Nelson, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, College of Forestry and Conservation. Email: cara.nelson@cfc.umt.edu.

Procedure for enrollment: The UM instructor of the course will provide advice but final responsibility for arranging sponsor, time, and place rests with the student. A list of potential sponsors can be found on the CFC website. The student should contact potential sponsors and develop a description of the practicum. The practicum description must then be submitted to the UM instructor for approval. Once these arrangements have been made, the student registers in Cyberbear with the consent of the UM instructor.

Requirements: All of the following must be submitted before credit can be assigned.

- a) An initial meeting to discuss and approve practicum, midway check-in, and exit interview are required with UM instructor. It is the student's responsibility to initiate these meetings and come to the instructor with any concerns or questions during the practicum.
- b) Letter from supervisor evaluating performance.
- c) A description of activities and hours spent kept by student. The practicum requires a minimum of 180 hours of work for 3 credits (60 hours per credit).
- d) A paper (8-15 double-spaced pages including *primary literature references that are peer reviewed*) dealing with some topic or issue encountered during the practicum and must include a significant amount of literature research.

All materials must be turned in *no later than* the last week of classes. The paper must be submitted 3 weeks before the end of classes for review and possible required revision.

Upper Division Writing: This course is one of three courses needed to satisfy the upper division writing requirement for CFC majors. Each student is required to achieve satisfactory scores on a sophomore-level writing course (FOR 220/WBIO 245 or equivalent). The successful completion of one of these courses plus the writing proficiency exam will be prerequisites for completion of the upper division distributed writing requirement.

Assessment of student writing will be on the basis of the following criteria:

1. A clear statement of purpose (hypothesis or question or goal) within the scientific context of the specific discipline.

2. The development of effective logical arguments using evidence and/or theory from the discipline or supporting disciplines.
3. Writing meets discipline-specific writing conventions including the proper citation of sources of information.
4. Demonstrate appropriate English language usage.

What are primary literature references? Journal articles from scientific journals are required for this paper. These scientific articles are reviewed by peers in the field and are often published by a university or scientific society. Web resources are **NOT** reviewed and can contain false information or make inferences from scientific articles that are inappropriate. Any information you obtain from web sites should be viewed with *extreme caution*. Some web sites, e.g., Montana AFS, MFWP, Forest Service, are reputable and can be used but can not serve as your only source of information.

How do I find primary literature? Go to UM's library site and click on search for articles, then Biology, then CSA Biological or Biological Abstract Searches. These journal articles may be found online or in the library. If you have trouble, see a librarian or come see me.

Evaluation: Student performance will be evaluated by the quality of work performed during the practicum as well as the final paper. The final grade will be assigned by the UM instructor in consultation with the sponsoring organization.