

ER312B Field Course Outline

Introduction to the Course

ER312B is the second of two field courses offered in the RNS program. This course is delivered in a 5-day intensive field format requiring attendance on campus for all five days, plus readings/assignments to be completed before and after the on-campus portion of the course. This is an advanced field study course involving ecosystem mapping and detailed site evaluation (prescription). The first two mornings will be spent in the classroom, but the course will largely be taught in the field at sites on Royal Roads/DND lands.

Course Goals

The course involves:

- identifying standard plant species cover
- creating physical site descriptions
- recognizing natural boundaries on air photos and on the ground
- identifying features related to slope stability
- recognizing critical clues to ecological processes that either limit or are critical to the functioning of an ecosystem (e.g. wildlife trees)

An important focus is to observe and recognize successional patterns as clues to restoration strategies.

Course Synopsis

This course consists of five days of activities and assignments followed by a term project due in November.

Day 1

Topics include:

- Introduction to course and its objectives
- Landslides and Slope stability assessment
- Succession, successional and structural stages

Day 2

Topics include:

- Terrestrial ecosystem mapping (TEM).
- Field plots for TEM: done by the class.
- Ground Inspection Forms.

Day 3

Topics Include:

- Field plots for TEM, mapping polygons.

Day 4

Topics include:

- Field exercise in recognizing and mapping successional communities
- Wildlife tree assessment
- Finish successional mapping

Day 5

Topics include:

- Stream habitat assessment at mouth of Cottonwood Creek
- Carry out TEM assessment of assigned areas

Assignments

- Field Note Books (20%)
- Field Exercises (30%)
 - TEM mapping on air photos
 - landslide form
 - ground inspection form
- Final Report (50%)