University of Victoria
Restoration of Natural Systems Program

ER390: Selected Project

Course Syllabus

Description:
This course involves a real restoration project in any field or aspect of restoration. The project is usually done in partnership with a community group, government department, or industry partner. If you are working in a related field, the project can be based on activities for your job with prior approval from the Academic Administrator. The ER390 could also build on a project you have done in another RNS field-based course such as ER312A or ER312B, but you cannot re-use your projects for ER390 credit (check with the Academic Administrator for clarification) and you must collect a significant amount of new data.

The expected time commitment for this course is approximately 100 hours, to be spread over 1 year or less. All RNS students must complete a final project to obtain their diploma or certificate.

Intent:
The final project brings together the knowledge and skills you have acquired through the program by applying them to a real restoration situation in your area of specialization. It should reinforce what you have learned. The project has two main goals:

1. To demonstrate a positive contribution by you to ecological restoration.
2. To produce a written report that provides a basis for evaluation.

Selecting a Project:
There are several ways of selecting a project. One way is to contact the RNS Program Office, as we are involved in several restoration projects that may be suitable project topics. Contact Val Schaefer for suggestions. Another way is for you develop your own project, preferably one that is part of a large and active restoration program. The project you choose must be a practical application in the restoration field and must be one in which you participate!

Registration Steps and Timeline:

1. Obtain approval for the project from the Academic Administrator (see next section).

2. Register for ER 390 during the term in which you expect to complete your report. Fees are due in the term in which you register. If you are unable to finish your project within the term in which you register, you do not need to re-register and pay tuition again, but you cannot graduate until a grade is submitted.

3. You may take up to a maximum of THREE semesters (one year) to complete ER 390.

To Obtain Project Approval:

1. Complete a two-page outline, and have it signed by the Academic Administrator or designate. This outline must include the location and objectives of the project, and a schedule of your role in the project (an example format for your two-page outline is below).

2. Provide written permission or invitation of project agency or project coordinator(s). Permission should briefly describe relationship of your project to the overall project.

Project Outline:

Suggested headings for project outline: (not all of these may be relevant to your project)

> Title: (Include the topic and the location of your project, e.g., The restoration of Garry Oak Ecosystems through prescribed burning in Saanich Municipality)

> Date prepared: When did you prepare the project outline?

> Background or Rationale: Why is this project being proposed?

> Purpose or Goals and Objectives: What will project accomplish?

> Location/Study Area: Provide the location of your project, such as the nearest settlement, and the biogeoclimatic zone or ecoregion.

> Cooperators (individuals or agencies or both): Provide the name of the associated or sponsoring agency and the key contact name, phone number and email address.

> Approach: How will your project be conducted, e.g. a brief description of methodology? What is the practical application you will have completed?

> Timetable or Schedule: Timetable for major steps in your project and the estimated completion time.

> Deliverables: Describe the nature of the products you will produce for your project, e.g. a final report, a video, a manual, etc.

Estimated budget: Provide a brief outline of the costs associated with completing you project. In some cases, a budget may not be necessary.

Benefits: What benefits will your project provide the associated or sponsoring agency, or the field of restoration in general.

Evaluation:
You will be assessed based on a Final Report approved for publication as a technical report of Restoration of Natural Systems. Your report should be approximately 5000 words long, plus references and any figures, tables, drawings, photographs and appendices. The final report is worth 100% of the grade in the course. It will be published as a technical report of Restoration of Natural Systems and made available as a PDF to the public. Reports may be sent to external experts for review.

Reports are due either April 1, August 1 or December 1, depending on the semester in which they are submitted.

The grading scheme for the report is as follows:

Aspect	Report section	Comments	Mark
Content (75)	Abstract/Summary (5): *present *appropriate length *appropriate content		__/5
	Intro (8) and Study Area (7): *purpose/objectives given *nature and scope of topic *pertinent references given *sufficient background *study area described (map). *history, land-use status		__/8 __/7
	Methods (25): *field methods-appropriate *described sufficiently well *analytical methods-correct.. *described sufficiently well		__/25
	Results /Disc/Concl (30): *data summarized properly *findings complete *results supported by data *discussion relevant *restoration suggestions *critical analysis *interpretations *effective use of tables, etc *pertinent references used		__/30
Writing (15)	*spelling, grammar correct *sentences complete *paragraphs well written/clarity *conciseness *logically organized		__/15
Format (10)	*references cited correctly *tables formatted properly *figures presented properly *paginated *scientific names used *metric units used *front material *overall lay-out		__/10
Total (100)			

Academic Integrity

The University of Victoria policy on Academic Integrity makes it clear that plagiarism and multiple submissions of assignments will not be tolerated. Depending on the severity of any infraction the penalty would involve a zero score for the assignment, an "F" grade for the course or expulsion from the university. Specifically, a student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- submits the work of another person as original work

- gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student's work, including failing to indicate clearly (through accepted practices within the discipline, such as footnotes, internal references and the crediting of all verbatim passages through indentations of longer passages or the use of quotation marks) the inclusion of another individual's work paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement as described above

Students who are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism in a particular instance should consult their course instructor. The University reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software programs to detect plagiarism in essays, term papers and other assignments.

Multiple submission is the resubmission of work by a student that has been used in identical or similar form to fulfill any academic requirement at UVic or another institution. Students who do so without prior permission from their instructor are subject to penalty.

ER 400:
After completing your ER 390, you are required to inform others of your project through the course ER 400 that does not have a course fee but requires that you register. Consult with the Academic Administrator to decide on how you plan to present your ER 390 project to the community. Identify a potential group or occasion and an approximate date when this might happen. The ER390 presentation is one component of ER400.

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