Syllabus (Fall 2011)
Introduction to Graduate Study in Natural Resources: NTRES 6000 (1 credit)
Tuesday, 4:45-6:00 PM (300 Rice)
Instructor: Cliff Kraft

This seminar includes discussions of the role of science in natural resource management and conservation, with a focus on how scientists pursue career paths towards effective participation in this realm of human activity. Our weekly discussions will focus on the practices of scientists and institutions that provide a framework for scientific endeavors.

I consider it increasingly important that scientists – whether in the social or natural sciences, and who pursue activities in the name of improving natural resources management – reflect on how and why they do what they are doing. I am often surprised to find that many scientists fail to recognize historical, cultural and institutional traditions that influence their efforts, as do many aspects of human behavior that are worth considering. I will suggest that such introspection is rare or becoming less common in academia, though that can be an ongoing topic for consideration during our discussions. In any event, I am confident that it's useful to reflect upon these issues at the outset of one's graduate studies, as well as throughout one's professional career. This course is my attempt to foster this type of discussion within our graduate program.

I want to note that this class syllabus is not cast in stone. I prefer to take advantage of some flexibility in adjusting our discussion topics as we become familiar with each other’s background and interests, as well as determine whether some of the DNR seminar speakers can join us for our discussions. I will alert you via email when we have changes in the scheduled topics for discussion.
Class Schedule (Fall 2011)
Introduction to Graduate Study in Natural Resources: NTRES 6000
Tuesday, 4:45-6:00 p.m. (300 Rice)

30 August
(4:45 p.m.)
Introduction to the field of Natural Resources
How to get started in your graduate studies in Natural Resources

6 September
(4:45 p.m.)
Who we are
Our second class session will provide us with an opportunity to learn more about each other and explore our professional career paths. Students will do this by interviewing and giving a short biography of another incoming graduate student.

13 September
(4:45 p.m.)
How do you become a scientist?
We will discuss the essay “A Conjoined Fate” by Hugh Raffles, which should provoke a useful discussion of this topic.

20 September
(4:45 p.m.)
Communicating with public audiences
Discussion with seminar speaker Randy Olson (tentative)

27 September
(4:45 p.m.)
The practice of science in a cultural context
A discussion focusing on chapters 2 & 3 of “In Amazonia: A Natural History” by Hugh Raffles

4 October
(4:45 p.m.)
Integrating natural and social science in conservation efforts
Discussion with seminar speaker Jeff McNeely (tentative)

11 October
Fall Break (no class session)

18 October
(4:45 p.m.)
Writing and publishing in the scientific literature

25 October
(4:45 p.m.)
Visual displays of information
The work of Edwin Tufte: Presenting evidence using visual displays of information

1 November
(4:45 p.m.)
Funding science
Sources of funding in Natural Resources (e.g. grants, gifts, & contracts; facilities and administrative costs, cost sharing)
Guest: Sarah Gould

8 November
(4:45 p.m.)
Data Management
Strategies for efficiently handling information in an era of abundant data
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>How to present yourself and your work: Presentations, web pages, and other venues</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>22 November</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>To be determined</strong>&lt;br&gt;Experience suggests that on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving many of us will likely be focused – or trying to focus – on topics other than academic, so we might arrange a social/professional event for those in town. Last year, we focused on (local) food and made pizzas.</td>
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<td>29 November</td>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Natural resource governance and the social impacts of conservation</strong></td>
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