

University of Alberta
Ecology and Conservation of Northern Landscapes Diversity - REN R 365
Winter, 2020

Instructor Nadele Flynn
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Office Hours: by appointment, available also by email or via eClass

Lecture Room and Time: C1511, Monday and Wednesday @ 9:00-10:25 AM

Class Website: eClass (<https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/>)

Course Description: Landscape ecology focuses on the relationship between pattern, process and scale and its relationship to broad-scale ecological and management issues. Modification of landscape properties is a critical issue in the conservation of biodiversity. The science of landscape ecology can inform management strategies to address these issues by improving understanding about how landscape conditions affect the movement, distribution and persistence of organisms, and the processes they depend on. Topics highlighted in this course include:

- landscape components and their dynamics
- spatial and temporal change in landscape properties
- issues of scale
- methods for detecting and characterizing landscape pattern;
- movements of organisms and disturbances across landscape mosaics
- conservation planning and management in a landscape context

Course Prerequisites: REN R 364 or ENCS 364. Registration requires enrolment in the BSc Environmental and Conservation Sciences (ENCS) Northern Systems Major, or consent of Department.

Course Format: The course will be primarily lecture-based. Four classes will be devoted to an assignment that includes quantitative exercises that help elaborate and demonstrate the principles discussed, using northern Canadian landscapes.

Required Readings: All required readings will be provided to students in digital or hard-copy format. These will be drawn from a variety of sources, including textbooks, scientific articles and reports.

Additional Resources: There are many excellent textbooks relevant to this subject material. The course will draw primarily from three books: *Applying Landscape Ecology in Biological Conservation* (2002, Springer Publishing), by K. Gutzwiller, editor, *Integrating Landscape Ecology into Natural Resource Management* (2006, Cambridge University Press), by J. Lui and W. Taylor, editors, and *Managing and Designing Landscapes for Conservation: Moving from Perspectives to Principles* (2007, Wiley Publishing), by D. Lindenmayer and R. Hobbs, editors.

Grading:	Mid-term Exam #1	15% (Feb 3 rd)
	Mid-term Exam #2	20% (March 11 th)
	Participation in 7 seminars (2% each) throughout the term	14%
	Lab Assignments: Lab 1,2 & 3 are 3% each; Lab 4 & 5 are 6% each	21%
	Final Exam	30% (Date TBD)

Participation: Over the semester one selected days (see schedule) the last 45 minutes of class will be run as a seminar. There will be assigned readings for each seminar which you will be expected to discuss during the seminar session. In order to receive participation marks it is important that you complete the assigned readings each week and be prepared to actively discuss them with the group; providing critical commentary and synthesis. In addition, you are each required to provide a short 3-4 sentence write up and post these to eclass the prior day by midnight that outlines some key questions that arose for you from reading the article, or outlines discussion points you plan to make. These will be used to partially evaluate participation and to take into consideration that with a larger class, not everyone is able to actively speak each class. *However, ONLY submitting a written discussion point and rarely or never speaking out in class will only earn you a maximum of 7 out of 14 marks for your seminar participation grade.*

Exams: The mid-term exams will be held during regular class time. The final exam will be held during the official exam period, with final date and time to be determined by the Yukon College schedule.

Lab Assignments: Paper- or computer-based lab assignments will be conducted during class period on dates listed in the course schedule. Students will have enough time to start the assignments in class but will need to complete the assignments outside of class time. Lab assignments are due within one week by midnight. Assignments will be submitted as PDFs on eClass. Further information on lab assignments will be provided in class.

eClass: Lectures, recordings and any additional readings for the course will be posted on eClass. Students will submit all assignments to eClass and receive grades (only visible to the student) and assignment comments. Students can also use eClass to post feedback (anonymous), pose questions to the instructor and/or students enrolled in the course. eClass will also be used to post practice exams and quizzes to help students prepare for exams.

Papers are to be submitted to eClass as electronic PDF submissions on the due date by midnight.

Students not familiar with eClass and its capabilities are encouraged to review online information from IST: [IST > eClass Helpful Information](#)

Missed Assignments and Mid-term Exam: Overdue papers will be deducted 10% for every day they are late. When a student is absent from the mid-term examination, or fails to hand in assignments or other term work on time, that student may apply for an excused absence. Students should contact the instructor as soon as they are able, having regard to the circumstances. If a student fails to notify an instructor within a reasonable time of their request for an excused absence, the instructor may deny the request unless the student provides a legitimate reason for the delay. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Missed Exams: When a student is absent from a final examination for a legitimate reason, that student may apply to their Faculty Office for a deferred examination. If a student has missed a final examination and has applied for a deferred exam, the instructor will calculate a final grade for the student using zero as the value for the final exam. This will be the grade that the student will get if they are not granted the deferred exam or if they do not write the deferred exam.

Course Requirements, Marking and Grading:

The Assessment and Grading Policy is available at:

[U of A Policies and Procedures On-Line \(UAPPOL\) > Assessment and Grading Policy](#)

The Grading Procedure is available at:

[U of A Policies and Procedures On-Line \(UAPPOL\) > Grading Procedure](#)

Use of media: Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Plagiarism and Cheating: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Code of Student Behaviour

All students at the University of Alberta are subject to the Code of Student Behaviour, as outlined at: [University Governance > Code of Student Behaviour](#). Please familiarize yourself with it and ensure that you do not participate in any inappropriate behavior as defined by the Code. Key components of the code include the following statements.

30.3.2(1) No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2)c. No Student shall represent another's substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student's own work."

Students should speak with the course instructor about any questions or concerns about the code. Students should be particularly aware of the code as it pertains to internet and library research, use of previous class notes, reclamation plans of former students and interviews or discussions with others.

Professionalism and Classroom Rules of Engagement: When you are in class it is expected that you are present, engaged and courteous in all course activities, starting and ending class on time. If you are late please enter but be careful not to disturb the class discussion, cellular phones and pagers are expected to be turned off during class – if they need to be on please discuss this with the instructor to ensure minimal disturbance to the class, laptops/iPads etc. can be used for work but other uses will distract from being present and engaged.

Use of Original Course Materials by Students: All original course materials prepared by the instructor are considered to be the intellectual property of the instructor (unless otherwise noted), and are protected by law under Canada's Copyright Act. "Course materials" include slides, presentations, handouts, lecture notes, recorded lectures, and any other materials distributed or made available to students by the course instructor. Permission is given for individual students to use these materials for their own study purposes in this course. Students must not publish, post on a public Internet site, sell, rent, or otherwise distribute any course materials without the instructor's express permission.

Students with Disabilities or Chronic Conditions: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability or chronic condition. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student has a disability or chronic condition and may need accommodation to fully participate in this class, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.