Research Methods for Interdisciplinary Research
Seminar Course NRM 692
CRN 40068
Spring 2010
1 credit, Pass/Fail

Course Information:
Location:

Instructors:

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Office Hours:
Arranged by appointment.

Course Calendar:
This course will meet on Tuesdays from 3 pm to 5 pm. The Spring 2010 semester is from Jan 21st through May 7th. Seminars will be held in IARC 417 unless otherwise notified (On Feb 16th, we will meet in IARC 401).

Course Overview:
This special topics class comes from years of discussions amongst IGERT Resilience and Adaptation students and has been developed by students in the program especially for graduate students conducting interdisciplinary research. The course has been developed to provide 2-hour seminars in which a guest speaker will (1) present an overview of a specific research method that he or she utilizes and, if possible, (2) lead the group in an interactive component to the seminar where the seminar participants will spend time performing a practical element of this method. Due to time limitations, research method in depth; however, course participants will be given an introduction to the method and then an activity that gives them experience with the method; therefore, if a method interests them, participants would have an idea of how to further investigate the method. Research methods courses from multiple departments will be highlighted throughout the semester for students looking for further depth of instruction in specific areas.
Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will acquire an:
• An exposure to a variety of research methods used for interdisciplinary research
• Ability to identify key resources at UAF and in the literature in order to further investigate research methods for conducting interdisciplinary research.

Attendance, Evaluation & Grading:
This course will be grade as Pass/Fail. Attendance and participation in 10 of the 13 seminars is required in order to pass this course.

Required Reading
Some topics in the course may require readings prior to the seminar. Reading materials will be placed on Blackboard such as:


Seminar Dates: Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2, 16, 23, Apr 6,13, 20, 27, May 4 (Mar 9 is spring break so no class)

Schedule Seminars:
Jan 26th  Course Introduction
Feb 2nd  Analysis of Qualitative Data: Coding, Differentiating between Discovery based and Hypothesis testing research (Jim Allen)
Feb 9th  Conducting Interviews (Bill Schneider)
Feb 16th  Conducting Surveys (Peter Fix) ***meeting in IARC 401***
Feb 23rd  Incorporating Film into Interdisciplinary Research (Maya Salganek)
Mar 2nd  Community Based Participatory Research (Jerry Mohatt)
Mar 9th  Spring Break-- no class
Mar 16th  Utilizing existing databases (Jennifer Schmidt)
Mar 23rd  Environmental history/addressing temporal scalar issues (Shana Loshbaugh)
Mar 30th  Q Method (Lily Ray)
Apr 6th  Documenting and Mapping Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Gary Kofinas)
Apr 13th  Introduction to climate modeling (Dr. Vladimir Alexeev) ***please bring a laptop to this seminar***
Apr 20th  Ecological surveys sampling methods: Plots, transects, population estimations, etc. (Terry Chapin)
Apr 27th  Using GIS (David Verbyla) ***seminar to be held in the GIS computer lab 3rd floor of O’Neill***
May 4th  Remote Sensing for everybody (Falk Huettemann)