Meeting Time:  Tues/Thur 11 AM - 1 PM, 208 Irving I Bldg.

Instructor:  Abby Powell, Asst. Unit Leader, AK Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
            209B, Irving I Bldg
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Class Overview:
This course includes critical discussion of contemporary issues (e.g. extinction patterns,
population viability, and the preservation, design, and management of habitats for
populations/species of concern) and issues regarding working with people as a
conservation/wildlife professional. We will stress integration of principles and policies into
strategies for biological conservation and wildlife management using topical case studies.
Students will provide input into the subjects we will cover this semester.

The course format is a twice-weekly discussion session with occasional instructor-led lectures
and guest speakers/panels. Students are expected to participate in discussions and panels.
During the semester, students will take on different roles as participants in discussions of topics
that will include various stakeholders (e.g. scientists, resource managers, conservation NGOs,
developers, industry representatives, subsistence users, landowners, etc.) to broaden
perspectives and practice skills working with diverse groups of people.

There is one textbook, otherwise readings will come from research and popular articles, news
stories, interviews with experts, and other sources of information on the topics covered.

Textbook:
Bonar, Scott A.  2007.  The conservation professional's guide to working with people. Island
          Press, Washington, D.C.

Course Objectives:
Through critical review of contemporary literature and discussion of current topics:
  1) gain an understanding of the many facets of contemporary issues in resource management
     and conservation
  2) become familiar with techniques for working with diverse groups of people and potentially
     contentious topics

Attendance Policy:  Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions.

Teaching Procedures:
Discussion sessions will meet twice each week.  All students will read and be prepared to
discuss all assigned papers and/or topics for each class.  Students will either volunteer or be
assigned a different role to play in group discussions of topics, and as such they are expected to
be familiar with the backgrounds, points of view, and concerns that are pertinent to their
particular role. Depending on class size, students may work in small groups on these roles. I will
facilitate gathering background materials, including contacts for interviews and discussions with
people currently involved in these issues.  At the end of select in-depth topics each student will
prepare a 2-5 page summary of their points of view given their roles (including references to
materials used and people contacted); I will collate these and distribute them to all students. A final exam will draw from each of the topics covered.

The class will include guest participants from agencies, NGOs, industry, etc. who are involved in select topics covered in class. Students will be expected to actively participate in discussion, debate, and question/answer sessions with guest participants.

**Assessment and Grading:** To obtain an A in this course, you must earn it.

1) 25% - Class attendance and participation in discussions
2) 50% - Summary Papers
3) 25% - Final Exam (Take Home)
Schedule (subject to change)

22 January  First day of class - topics suggested, discussion of class structure
27 January  The Endangered Species Act
29 January  Other Legislation (Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, etc.)
3 February  Working with People
5 February  Working with People
10 February  Climate Change
12 February  Sea Ice
17 February  Climate Change
19 February  Brad Griffith, UAF, Climate Change
24 February  Polar Bears
26 February  Dick Schideler, AK Fish and Game - Polar Bears
3 March  Micheal Macrander, Shell Oil Company, Offshore Gas and Oil
5 March  Robert Suydam, North Slope Borough, Offshore Gas and Oil
SPRING BREAK
17 March  Ice Seals
19 March  Lori Quakenbush, AK Fish and Game - Ice Seals
24 March  Student Topic (TBA)
26 March  Student Topic (TBA)
31 March  Steffen Oppel, Islands
2 April  Steffen Oppel, Islands
7 April  Steffen Oppel, Islands
9 April  Steffen Oppel, Sea ducks
14 April  Steffen Oppel, Sea ducks
16 April  NO CLASS
21 April  John Schoen, Alaska Audubon, NPRA
23 April  NPRA
28 April  NPRA
30 April  Wrap up discussion