Resilience Seminar I  
Anth/Biol/Econ/NRM 667 (1 credit)  
Fall 2009

COURSE INFORMATION
Meeting time 3:30-5:00 Wednesday  
Location: Room 183, Arctic Health Building  
Prerequisites: Participation in the Resilience and Adaptation Program or permission of instructor  

INSTRUCTOR: Terry Chapin  
Room 195 Arctic Health Bldg.  
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SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Readings will be identified and provided by the student leading the discussion or by guests.

GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The objective of the Resilience Seminar is to provide a forum for new students of the Resilience and Adaptation Program to explore issues of sustainability and interdisciplinary studies relevant to the overall IGERT curriculum, and to provide support for planning summer resilience internships and developing a thesis research prospectus.

ACTIVITIES AND METHODS: Every other week students will discuss topics and readings, address individual and common questions, and meet with invited speakers. On alternating weeks they attend the All-RAP Seminar. A considerable portion of the seminar is student-directed, based on the planning by students with support from the instructor.

KEY ASSIGNMENTS: By the end of the fall semester, each student will submit a brief (1 page) summary of their tentative thesis topic that gives title, research question/hypothesis, and general approach. Other assignments, including readings, will be determined by the group and assigned throughout the semesters.

EVALUATION: Evaluation will be based on level and quality of each student’s participation, and each student’s role in organizing and leading seminar activities. Grades will be Pass or Fail.

UAF POLICIES: Students are expected to read, understand, and adhere to the academic honor code detailed in the UAF Catalog. If you have a disability or for any reason need special consideration, please let me know at the beginning of the course, and I will modify and accommodate as appropriate to meet your needs.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
Sept. 9: RAP group discussion of seminar goals and learning objectives, and tentative thesis interests of each student. Discussion with NSF IGERT program officers about national context of IGERT. [Readings: RAP proposal; section 2]

Sept. 16 rescheduled to Sept. 21
Sept. 21 [Monday], 12 noon brown-bag: All-RAP (Miranda Wright student host)

Sept. 23 Launching an interdisciplinary PhD: Challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary research, including intellectual issues such as mutual respect for alternative paradigms and methodologies and practical issues such as working with committee members from different disciplines. [Reading: Miller et al. Epistemological pluralism]

Sept. 30: All-RAP: (Terry and Gary on travel) perhaps Phil Loring, with Craig Gerlach introducing him

Oct. 7 Action-oriented research: Influencing the policy-planning process (Pan-arctic, National, Alaska, Borough/community, individual) (Brian Rogers, Sarah Trainor?)

Oct. 14: All-RAP: (Terry on travel) [Jim Powell?, Gary introduce]

Oct. 21 RAP8 student choice???

Oct. 28 All-RAP: [Outside speaker??]

Nov. 4 Present thesis prospectus to one another: first draft emphasizing academic importance and relevance to society

Nov. 11 All-RAP: Stian Stensland

Nov. 18 Conveying your research to the public: students present thesis ideas to a panel of public communicators (journalist, TV person, agency manager, chamber of commerce) (Terry on travel) [Alternatively, Gary could lead session on internship planning.]

Nov. 25 All-RAP: [reschedule or omit? I’m inclined to omit]

Dec. 2 Leading your own path through the academic jungle. Conveying your academic plan to your committee and department. (Turn in thesis prospectus that goes to your advisor and committee)

Dec. 9 All-RAP: [Robin Bronen?]
Alternative topics to consider (or save for the spring seminar)

University resources: Faculty, students, library, endnote

Research ethics. Academic ethics: ethics that apply within and across disciplines. Ethics of collaboration: outreach to communities (including intellectual property rights and discussion about “being researched”. Complete IRB web course before class.

Communicating across cultures and disciplines: respecting other frameworks, natural and social sciences; academics and community/agency cultures; international. (ask La’ona DeWilde, Bill Schneider, Archana Bali)

Leadership theory

Frank discussion about appropriate researcher behavior in communities.

What is science? What is induction, reduction, and abduction? Eduardo Wilner

Successful grant writing.

Survey research for public policy questions. Pete Fix

Presenting soundbites about your research to different potential audiences (general public; community, agency, news media, other academics)