Resilience Seminar I
Anth/Biol/Econ/NRM 667 (1 credit)
Fall 2007

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.
Tel: 7922
e-mail: terry.chapin@uaf.edu

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. Each student will also present a general plan for their internship. 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. Priority seating close to the board and screen is provided for students who need to be in close proximity to the board.

DISABILITIES SERVICES: The University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and insures that UAF students have equal access to the
campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you have a physical or learning disability, please advise me in writing of any special consideration necessary by the beginning of the second class. I will do everything possible to accommodate you in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
Sept. 12: RAP6 group discussion of program goals, learning objectives, selection of representative to RAP steering committee. What do you want to accomplish, what do you want out of the program (e.g., Resilience Seminar), and how do you want to function as a RAP cohort? Report back to Terry at end of class.

Sept. 19: Library resources: Introduction to effective use of library and internet resources: Anne Christie (confirmed)

Sept. 26 All-RAP Nathan Coutoubos (confirmed)

Oct. 3: Approaches for effective group work (Myers Briggs and other approaches) Susan Herman (confirmed)

Oct. 10 All-RAP: Sherri Wall (confirmed)

Oct. 17: Challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary research, including practical issues such as working with a supervisor and committee to achieve interdisciplinary success.

Oct. 24 All-RAP Gordon Pullar: Alaska Native institutions and political issues

Oct. 31 Navigating the IRB/ethical review process at UAF (complete IRB online test before class). Successful research partnering with communities, agencies, and industry, including discussion about “being researched”.

Nov. 7 All-RAP: Shana Loshbaugh (confirmed)

Nov. 14 Effective cross-cultural communication: natural and social sciences; academics and community/agency cultures; international. Tips on interviewing (including audio/video) Bill Schneider?

Nov. 21 All-RAP: Elisabeth Robins (confirmed)

Nov. 28 Discussion of potential thesis topics (5 minute presentation; 5 minute discussion for each person) What is rigorous research?

Dec. 5 All-RAP Jim Schwarber (confirmed)

Dec. 12 “Ten principles for doing good research”: A boiled down version of a course taught by Brad Griffith.
Additional topics to consider as replacements for the above or for weeks where all-RAP does not occur:

Using and building an ENDNOTE bibliographic database. Gary Kofinas

Academic ethics: ethics that apply within a discipline, in interdisciplinary efforts, and in outreach to communities (including intellectual property rights).

Frank discussion about appropriate researcher behavior in communities. [maybe should be two sessions]

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

Successful grant writing.

Leadership theory

Survey research for public policy questions. Pete Fix

Outreach to convey research to the public sphere; invite editor of the local newspaper and director of kuac. and students were asked to write a press release about their work

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

Guest speakers you would particularly like to hear discuss some important topic