Syllabus for B/W692 Introduction to Natural Resources Professional Opportunities

Spring 2014

1. Natural Resources Professional Opportunities, B/W692, 1 credit.
   1. Prerequisites – Graduate standing or permission.
   2. Location and Time – TBA after a Doodle Poll of registrants. One 1-hour meeting per week.

2. Instructor – Brad Griffith, 209C Irving I Bldg., UAF.
   1. Office hours – By appointment
   2. Contact information – 907-474-5067; brad.griffith@alaska.edu.

3. Reading Materials – none

4. Course Description – The course will provide an overview of the goals and missions and career opportunities in various natural resource agencies provide training in the preparation of a successful resume and training in preparation for a successful in-person or phone interview. Thereafter, a series of guest lecturers from a wide range of natural resource agencies will give the mission and organizational chart for their agencies, outline the various avenues for employment and advancement within their agency and give an explicit rundown on their actual day to day job duties and how they came to the job they are in. They would then be open to questions from the students. There will be presenters from administrative, research and management branches of the agencies and from both fisheries and wildlife specialties. Presenters will encompass as many agencies as possible (e.g., ADFG, USFWS, USNPS, USFS, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, etc.).

5. Course Goals – To provide prospective natural resource agency employees with the background and training necessary to prepare a successful resume and conduct a successful in-person or phone interview and to provide direct exposure to the culture and professional career tracks available in various agencies.

6. Student Learning Outcomes – a) the missions of various natural resource agencies and the implications for potential career tracks; b) components and delivery of a successful resume; c) comportment and delivery of a successful in-person or phone interview, and d) face to face contact with a sample of working natural resource professionals and the opportunity to obtain answers to their agency specific questions.

7. Instructional Methods – The course will consist of three introductory lectures followed by a series of guest presentations by natural resource professionals. Introductory lectures will: 1) provide historical background information, a broad overview of the agency roles and missions, describe the "employment landscape" and the implications/opportunities/limitations of various career paths; 2) provide guidance for resume preparation, and 3) provide guidance and a practicum for conducting a successful phone or in-person interview. Thereafter, the format is a series of presentations by natural resources professionals from various agencies, one per week.

8. Course Calendar (numbers represent sequential class meetings)–
   1. Introduction to Natural Resource Agencies.
   2. Preparation of a successful resume.
3. Conduct of a successful phone or in-person interview.
5. Alaska Department of Fish & Game guest presentation (wildlife).
6. Alaska Department of Fish & Game guest presentation (fisheries).
7. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guest presentation (refuges).
8. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guest presentation (research and management).
11. Non-governmental Organization 1 guest presentation (e.g. The Wilderness Society).
12. Non-governmental Organization 2 guest presentation (e.g. The Nature Conservancy).
13. Concluding Synopsis – Discussion and question session.

9. Course Policies – a) No cell phone usage during class; b) all sessions must be attended unless there is a pre-approved exception; c) tardiness will not be tolerated, students must be present at the initiation of guest presentations and may not arrive late.
10. Evaluation – The course is Pass/Fail. A passing requires attendance at all class meetings unless an absence for medical or other substantive reasons is approved beforehand. Un-approved absences will result in a failing grade.
11. Support Services – The Instructor will be available to provide clarifying details or additional information as requested by students. Specific contacts and introductions to non-presenting natural resource professionals will be provided on request.
12. Disability Services – The Instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHITAKER BLDG, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.