



COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2013  
 COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: October 2018  
*(six years after UEC approval)* *(month, year)*

**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION**

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.  
 Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

|                                   |                    |             |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| GEOG 412                          | Geography          | 4           |
| COURSE NAME/NUMBER                | FACULTY/DEPARTMENT | UFV CREDITS |
| Environmental Geography Practicum |                    |             |
| COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE          |                    |             |

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This course enables students to integrate applied practical experience and training into their academic studies in environmental geography. Students will participate in a semester-long practicum that will provide them the opportunity to build upon their skills in a supervised and usually unpaid work experience in environmental practice with an employer or institution. GEOG 412 will normally only be offered in an independent studies format.

Note: Before initiating practicum placements, students must sign a practicum agreement. UFV reserves the right not to place a student into a practicum if, in the opinion of the faculty, the student is not ready to be placed.

PREREQUISITES: Two of GEOG 250, GEOG 252, or GEOG 253; at least 8 credits of 300/400 level Geography; and permission of instructor and department head.

COREQUISITES:  
 PRE or COREQUISITES:

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

- (a) Replaces: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Cross-listed with: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Cannot take: \_\_\_\_\_ for further credit.

**SERVICE COURSE TO:** *(department/program)*

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 100

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

|                            |           |     |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Lectures:                  | _____     | Hrs |
| Seminar:                   | <u>12</u> | Hrs |
| Laboratory:                | _____     | Hrs |
| Field experience:          | <u>88</u> | Hrs |
| Student directed learning: | _____     | Hrs |
| Other (specify):           | _____     | Hrs |

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

Length of course: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours per day: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER:**

Maximum enrolment: 6  
 Expected frequency of course offerings: On demand  
*(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)*

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)  Yes  No  
 WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)  Yes  No  
 TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:  Yes  No

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Course designer(s): <u>Steven Marsh</u>                 | Date approved: <u>February 16, 2012</u>  |
| Department Head: <u>Michelle Rhodes</u>                 | Date of meeting: <u>May 18, 2012</u>     |
| Supporting area consultation (Pre-UEC)                  | Date approved: <u>October 12, 2012</u>   |
| Curriculum Committee chair: <u>Tetsuomi Anzai</u>       | Date approved: <u>October 12, 2012</u>   |
| Dean/Associate VP: <u>Jacqueline Nolte</u>              | Date of meeting: <u>October 26, 2012</u> |
| Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UEC) approval |  |

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create and implement a work plan.
2. Perform various skills in which they have been trained both prior to and during their internship placement.
3. Apply concepts, skills, and theories on environmental practice learned in the classroom to work with non-UFV employment opportunities.
4. Reflect on and assess their abilities and interests in employment in an environmental field.
5. Perform professionally in the workplace.

**METHODS:** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Practicum placement with an environmental firm or institution, equivalent to an average of one, 8-hour day per week over 12 weeks of the regular term. Seminars and presentation of final project will also be required.

**Practicum placement:**

Due to the organizational needs of a practicum-based course, initial discussions regarding possible practicum placement sites will begin well before the semester begins. A student interested in a Geog 412 practicum and faculty supervisor will meet well in advance of the semester to discuss possible practicum sites and the nature of the course and its expectations.

**Practicum:**

After the initial meeting students will be working 8 hours a week in their arranged practicum for the next twelve weeks. The parameters of the practicum will be set out in detail in the Learning Agreement and Work Plan that is drafted in discussions between the student and employer, and approved by the instructor. The Learning Agreement and Work Plan will accomplish the following:

1. define the goals the student hopes to achieve;
2. clearly specify the major project undertaken in the practicum and the general work tasks;
3. specify the work schedule and location;
4. identify the individual who will serve as supervisor for the student; and
5. identify a potential topic for a research poster or similar project.

**Practicum Project:**

Defined in the Learning Agreement, the Final Project will likely take the form of a research poster produced in conjunction with and with the consent of the sponsor agency. The sponsor will retain a copy of the Project; the student will present another copy at the post-practicum seminars and/or conferences. Additional formats may be considered, depending on the needs of the sponsor organization and the nature of the practicum work. In the last week of the term students will have an opportunity to present their Final Project, share their practicum experiences with classmates, and consider the career possibilities opened to them by the course.

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):**

Examination(s)                       Portfolio assessment                       Interview(s)                       Other (specify):

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:** *[Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]*

Reference texts used by practicum students, regardless of placement:

- Northey, Margot, David B. Knight, and Diane Draper, 2012. Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences. A Student's Guide to Research and Writing, Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press.
- Solen, Michael, Kenneth Foote, and Janice Monk, 2013. Practicing Geography. Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment. Pearson Education.

The following is a section of readings related to an internship placement in water quality monitoring, management, and outreach:

- Artiola, Janick, Ian L. Pepper, and Mark Brusseau (eds.), 2004. Environmental Monitoring and Characterization. Burlington, MA: Elsevier Academic Press.
- Boon, Phillip, and Paul Raven, 2012. River Conservation and Management. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Church, Michael, Pascale Biron, and Andre Roy (eds.), 2012. Gravel-bed Rivers: Processes, Tools, Environments. John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- Gordon, Nancy D., Thomas A. McMahon, Brian L. Finlayson, Christopher J. Gippel, and Rory J. Nathan, 2006. Stream Hydrology. An Introduction for Ecologists. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- Milliman, John D. and Katherine L. Farnsworth, 2012. River Discharge to the Coastal Ocean. A Global Synthesis. Cambridge University Press.

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**

None, although the student may encounter additional travel expenses associated with off-campus practicum placements.

**STUDENT EVALUATION:** *[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Work plan   | 15% |
| Poster proposal   | 5%  |
| Journal   | 20% |
| Field place evaluations<br>(2: mid-point and final evaluations) | 30% |
| Poster/presentation   | 30% |

**COURSE CONTENT:** *[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]*

Content will vary as according to Practicum placement. In addition to work with the employer, students will also meet weekly (on-line or in person) with faculty supervisor to review practicum process and discuss required readings.