

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA - GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT
Crown of the Continent - Geography 344 - Autumn Semester 2016

Professor: Rick Graetz

Place: Stone Hall 304

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM

Office & Hours: Stone Hall 307A – phone 406-243-2307

Office Hours – Tue & Thursday, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, and by appointment - email is the best way to contact me

Email Address: rick.graetz@umontana.edu – I travel frequently when not teaching and can't always respond to e-mails immediately, but most days I check it – cell phone 406-439-9277

Research and Teaching Assistant:

Katie Schank - katherine.shank@umconnect.umt.edu

Required Reading:

Crown of the Continent: The Wildest Rockies by Steven Gnam

Montana's Bob Marshall Country by Rick & Susie Graetz

Last Stand: Battle to Save the Buffalo and the Birth of the New West by Michael Punke

Reading Assignments

Assignments will be given out weekly – exam questions will be taken from readings as well as lectures.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.”

Exams/Assignments:

Exam 1 – 100 pts.

Exam 2 – 100 pts.

Exam 3 – 100 pts.

Final Exam – 100 pts.

Writing Assignment – 50 pts.

Attendance: Attendance will count as 10% of your overall grade.

Final Examination: Wednesday-Tuesday, December 14-20 – Final Exams (evening session and date to be determined)

Disability Access

If you are a student with a disability and wish to discuss reasonable modifications for this course, contact me privately to discuss the specific modifications you wish to request. Please be advised I may request that you provide a letter from Disability Services for Students verifying your right to reasonable modifications. If you have not yet contacted Disability Services, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to verify your disability and to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

This Is The Crown of the Continent – Course of Study and Outcome

The Crown of the Continent is considered to be one of the most intact, pristine ecosystems in America and a microcosm of the American West that once was. It straddles the Continental Divide stretching from 11,216-foot Mount Joffre and the headwaters of Canada's Elk River south to 5,610-foot Rogers Pass and the Blackfoot River drainage in Montana – a majestic 250-mile long run of country. Its 13 million acres are bordered on the east by the Rocky Mountain Front of Alberta and Montana and on the west by the Mission, Flathead, Tobacco, Kootenai River and Columbia Lake valleys.

Our course of study of this iconic and dynamic ecosystem landscape will include the use of photography and maps, and you will hear from outside speakers considered experts in their field. We will also delve into all realms of the Crown's geography – its physical, historical, cultural and economic elements.

You will also gain an understanding of the following:

Collaboration for Conservation – No place in America has experienced as much cooperation and grass roots work for conservation as the Crown. We document the work being done in various landscapes from the beginning and describe how so much accomplishment is possible when all participants are heard.

Sustainable Development – Creating conservation projects that preserve traditional uses of Crown landscapes has shown we can devise economic activities that are in harmony with the ecosystem. We study the results of current successes and initiate discussions on new possibilities.

Climate Change - The Crown, especially in Glacier National Park, is perhaps the most expansive outdoor laboratory in the nation to study the many facets of an alteration in our long-term climate. Through the knowledge of what is occurring, we can determine ways in which to live with it, adapt to it, benefit from it, and pass on the results and ideas to folks working in other landscapes.

Urban/Wildland Interface Conflicts – Several areas of the Crown exhibit examples of this issue and present opportunities to create workable solutions.

Indigenous Cultures - No place in North America experienced so much interaction between the Indian nations. The Crown allows us a chance to understand the history behind the culture of the many native peoples who populate several areas of this ecosystem.

You will see the Crown as if you were traveling through it on foot, horseback or vehicle. When we adjourn in December you will have a firm understanding of this grand piece of geography and all it stands for!

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT FALL 2016 CLASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 30

About the class – Introduction to the Crown of the Continent and UM’s Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative

Thursday, September 1

Professor lecture – Photographic tour of the Crown – Discussion – Crown timeline – Book Sales

Tuesday, September 6

Professor lecture – Rocky Mountain Front – photos – Bob Marshall Country discussion

Thursday, September 8

Rocky Mountain Front – Badger Two Medicine - Speaker

Tuesday, September 13

Professor lecture – Rogers Pass – Blackfoot Valley – Swan Valley and Swan Range – Review

Thursday, September 15

Conservation work in the Blackfoot and Swan valleys - Speaker

Tuesday, September 20

Rocky Mountain Front Wildlife – Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks – Speaker

Thursday, September 22

Professor lecture – Flathead Lake, Mission Valley, Mission Range and Flathead Reservation – **Quiz #1**

Tuesday, September 27

The Salish and Kootenai people of the Crown – Speaker

Thursday, September 29

The Blackfoot Nation in the Crown – Speaker

Tuesday, October 4

Glacier National Park Backcountry and Bear Management – GNP Backcountry Ranger – Speaker

Thursday, October 6

Crown of the Continent Weather – Speaker

Tuesday, October 11

Wilderness and Wilderness Study areas in the Crown - Speaker

Thursday, October 13

Professor lecture - Tobacco Valley - Whitefish Range – North Fork Flathead - Canada/USA

Tuesday, October 18

Whitefish Range and Conservation Efforts in the North Fork – Speaker

Thursday, October 20

Transboundary Conservation - Speaker - **QUIZ #2**

Tuesday, October 25

Flathead Lake and Flathead River system – Speaker

Thursday, October 27

Professor lecture - Crow's Nest Pass – Elk River Headwaters – Fernie

Tuesday, November 1

The Pine Bark Beetle in the Crown and Forest Ecology – Speaker

Thursday, November 3

TBA

Tuesday, November 8 – No Class – Election Day

Thursday, November 10

Glacier National Park Management; - GNP Supervisory Ranger -Speaker

Tuesday, November 15

TBA

Thursday, November 17

Review and **Quiz #3**

Tuesday, November 22 – No Class – Travel Day (other courses may still meet)

Thursday, November 24 – No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 29

Climate Change – Glaciers and wildlife habitat in Glacier National Park – Speaker

Thursday, December 1

Grizzly Bear Management on the Rocky Mountain Front and in the Bob Marshall Country – Speaker

Tuesday, December 6

Professor lecture - Crown of the Continent discussions – history – the future – UM's role
Greater Yellowstone

Thursday, December 8 – Last Class

Review and Discussion

Wednesday-Tuesday, December 14-20 – Final Exams (evening session to be determined)