



COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2018
NRC 597 LP – Land Protection: Tools and Techniques

Days: Tuesday & Thursday

Time: 10:00 – 11:15

Classroom: Holdsworth 105

Instructor: Paul Catanzaro

Office: Holdsworth 327

Office Hours: Tuesday 1 – 3 P.M. or by appointment

Phone: (413) 545-4839

e-mail: paulcat@umass.edu , e-mails will typically be responded to within 24-hours.

Text: No text. Readings will be posted on Moodle.

Course Schedule: A table outlining the course schedule is included in this syllabus. If changes to the schedule are necessary, they will be reflected in a revised syllabus that will be posted on the Moodle site.

Learning Outcomes: Through lectures, guest speakers, readings, and assignments you will understand:

1. Landowner decisions and how to inform them;
2. Organizations that protect land;
3. Strategies to prioritize land for protection;
4. Tools that permanently protect land from development;
5. Monitoring land to ensure that agreements are being honored;
6. Stewarding protected land to maintain desired conservation values; and
7. Importance of community engagement and communication.

Course Goal: Prepare you for either a career in land conservation or give you the ability to incorporate land conservation into your chosen profession.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is a violation of the spirit and regulations of the University, and will not be tolerated. Any student found to be in violation of University Academic Honesty regulations will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. For further information on academic honesty regulations, please consult Academic Regulations: <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/media/academicregs.pdf>

Accommodations: If you are registered with the disabilities office and would benefit from accommodations, please come and see me so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Grading

Reflections: We will have eight guest speakers visit class to contribute their knowledge and experience. You will be responsible for preparing a 1-2 page reflection for each of these speakers. Each of the speaker reflections will be worth 10 points. Your lowest speaker reflection will be dropped. In addition, you will be asked to prepare a 2-3 page reflection for the Regional Conservation Partnership Gathering (see below). This reflection will be worth 30 points. The total point earned from the speaker reflections (70 points) and the RCP reflection (30) will be 100 points towards your final grade. Reflections that are up to one week late will receive a 20% point deduction. Reports that are more than one week late will not be accepted.

Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering: Successful land protection takes partnerships. Regional Conservation Partnerships are collaborative efforts by conservation organizations in a defined area to increase the pace and scale of land protection in that area. The annual gathering of New England RCPs will take place on the UMass Amherst campus on November 15th, 2018. You will attend this conference as a part of this course and prepare a reflection of the RCP conference. More information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/2018-RCP-Network-Gathering>

Exams: There will be two (2) exams, a mid-term and a final. Both of these exams will be worth 100 points towards your final grade.

Land Protection Project: You will be asked to develop an independent project related to land protection and specific to your professional goals. Projects must be approved by the instructor. Example projects include: monitoring a conservation restriction, developing case studies of conserved their land, prioritizing land for protection in collaboration with a land trust or community, policy analysis, assisting with the stewardship of conserved land, or other [*insert your imagination here*]. This project will be worth 100 points towards your final grade.

Grading: Final grades will be based on the following:

Reflections =	100 points
Exam I =	100 points
Exam II =	100 points
Land Protection Project =	100 points
Total Points =	400 points
A (> 93%)	C (73% – 76.99%)
A- (90% – 92.99%)	C- (70% – 72.99%)
B+ (87% – 89.99%)	D+ (67% – 69.99%)
B (83% – 86.99%)	D (60% – 66.99%)
B- (80% – 82.99%)	F (0% – 59.99%)
C+ (77% – 79.99%)	

NRC 597 LP – Land Protection: Tools and Techniques Schedule

Week	Date	Content Area	Notes
1	4 Sept	Why protect land?	
	6 Sept	Understanding Landowner Decisions	
2	11 Sept	Speakers: Landowner Stories <i>Peter Melnick Bar-Way Farm –Deerfield, MA</i> <i>Tony Borton – Conway, MA</i>	
	13 Sept	Types of Land Protection Organizations	
3	18 Sept	Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Protection Project Assignment • Landowner reflection due
	20 Sept	Speaker: Prioritizing Land for Protection <i>Scott Jackson – UMass</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project meetings
4	25 Sept	Permanent Land Protection Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project meetings
	27 Sept	Due Diligence and Appraisals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project meetings • Land prioritization reflection due
5	2 Oct	Ensuring Perpetuity – Baseline Documentation Reports & Annual CR Monitoring	
	4 Oct	Speaker: CR Stewardship <i>Nicole Pyser - Berkshire Natural Resources Council</i>	
6	9 Oct	No Class – Monday Schedule	
	11 Oct	No Class – Makeup through the RCP Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR Stewardship reflection due
7	16 Oct	Mid-term Exam	
	18 Oct	Speaker: Agricultural Land Protection <i>Jamie Pottern</i> <i>Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust</i>	
8	23 Oct	Land Protection Policies	
	25 Oct	Land Protection Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag. land protection reflection due
9	30 Oct	Speaker: Municipal Land Protection <i>Wayne Feiden</i> <i>Dir. of Planning and Sustainability - Northampton</i>	
	1 Nov	Conservation-based Estate Planning - Passing land on through wills, trusts, & ownership	
10	6 Nov	Stewardship of Protected Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal reflection due
	8 Nov	Speaker: Making Stewardship Decisions <i>Speaker: Tom Lautzenheiser</i> <i>Massachusetts Audubon Society</i>	
	10 Nov	Land Conservation Career Conf. – Harvard U.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional, but highly recommended!
11	13 Nov	Landscape scale conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship decisions reflection due
	15 Nov	RCP Network Gathering – Campus Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Project Due
	20 Nov	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
	22 Nov	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
12	27 Nov	Speaker: Patterns of Land Protection <i>Jonathan Thompson – Harvard Forest</i>	
	29 Nov	Engaging Communities in Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCP Reflection due
13	4 Dec	Speaker: The Future of Land Protection <i>Lisa Vernegaard –Sudbury Valley Trustees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of land protection reflection due
	6 Dec	Final Thoughts – Course Review	
14	11 Dec	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future land protection reflection due