DRAFT SYLLABUS

CFAN 3513: “The Natural History of Norway”
May 19– June 6, 2015

Introduction:

The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota has an exchange program with Nord Trøndelag University College (NTUC) in central Norway in a region known as “Nord Trøndelag” (“North Trondelag” translated into English). The exchange program is designed to encourage both student and faculty exchanges at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The faculty members at NTUC focus their teaching and research efforts on areas such as ecology, wildlife biology, fisheries biology, natural resource management, environmental policy and law, physical geography, animal science, agricultural economics, and other related topics.

The Nord Trøndelag region is known for its fertile farmland, snow-capped mountains, productive Norway spruce and scotch pine forests, diverse fish and wildlife species (including trout, salmon, moose, semi-domestic reindeer, sea eagles, grouse, etc.), freshwater glacial lakes, fast-flowing rivers, and a unique marine ecosystem defined by the adjacent Atlantic Ocean and the Trondheim fjord.

Students in this program will have a unique opportunity to gain “hands-on” exposure to the “natural history” of central Norway as well as learn about Norwegian history from the early Viking civilization to present, Norwegian and native Sami culture, and traditions in this May/June session study abroad program.

Credits: 3 semester credits, Meets UofMN Liberal Education Theme of Global Perspectives.

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:

The program will be based in the Nord Trøndelag region of central Norway where students will learn about Norway’s physical geography, ecology and management of natural resources, its flora and fauna, agricultural systems, and gain an understanding of the region’s rich culture, history and its close ties to Minnesota.

Through lectures, readings and field excursions, students will learn about:

- Regional marine ecosystems in the adjacent Atlantic Ocean and fjords including marine flora and fauna
- Norwegian agricultural (animal and plant) systems and the economic impacts of these industries to Norway’s economy
- Norwegian wildlife and fish (freshwater and marine) resources, ecology and management
- Norwegian forest resources, ecology and management
- Geologic origins and associated flora and fauna of the region’s mountains, glacial lakes, fjords, rivers

- Environmental policy and management issues including hunting and fishing rights of the general Norwegian public and the native Sami people.

- Norwegian history from the Viking age to present-day Norway

- Norwegian culture and traditions

**Lead Instructors:**

**Bill Ganzlin**

Lead Instructor, “The Natural History of Norway”  
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Bill serves as the program leader for “The Natural History of Norway”. This course is offered every other year; the 2015 offering will be the sixth time that Bill has led this course.

In addition to teaching “The Natural History of Norway”, Bill has taught several other courses at the UofMN including FR 5236 - Forest Recreation Planning and ENR 1001 – Environment and Natural Resources Orientation and Information Systems. In addition to his teaching role, Bill serves as Director of Student Services, Coordinator of Academic Advising, and Undergraduate Research Coordinator in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

Bill completed a B.S. degree in Natural Resources in 1978 and an M.S. degree in Forestry in 1983 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bill worked for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a natural resources/park management intern and as a forester/firefighter with the Chequamegon National Forest in northern Wisconsin before joining the University of Minnesota in 1985.

**Ole Jakob Sørensen**

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Ole Jakob is an Associate Professor in terrestrial ecology from the Univ. of Trondheim, (now: NTNU) in 1978 in Norway and with his bachelor degree from The Univ. of Oslo. His master thesis covered winter habitat use of forest grouse birds. He has worked for 14 years as a research scientist at the Norwegian Directorate of nature management, Research division and at the Norwegian Inst. of Nature research, and a year at the Norwegian Agricultural Univ. He has for ten years worked as a carnivore scientist, and as such visited wolf and black bear studies in Minnesota several times, and quite familiar with the wildlife management in US in general. His carnivore work has covered all Norway, and with a broad national, including the Sámi people, as well as an international network in that respect.
He is a member of The International Association for Bear Research and management, and there been a council member for many years. He is now the leader of IBAs “New Experience and Exchange Grant Program” – with committee members from Minnesota, Washington D.C., Austria, and Venezuela.

His main teaching is for the time being nature management in Norway including biodiversity management of forests and carnivore ecology and management. He is currently active in cooperation with the Northern Arctic Federal Univ. in Archangelsk in Russia, and the Russian Academy of Sciences in Archangelsk in the development of environmental issues in Forestry practice, student exchange and in research in Russian virgin forests with the perspective of creating national protected forest reserves.

Supporting Instructors from Nord Trondelag University College:

- Hanne S. Hansen, Dean, Department of Natural Resource Sciences and IT
- Sonja Ekker, Assistant Professor in Geology
- Tor Kvam, Associate Professor in Ecology
- Hans W. Thorsen, Associate Professor in Geography
- Stig Tronstad, Instructor, Freshwater Biology
- Håkon Holien, Associate Professor in Botany
- Gjermund Gomo, Ph.D. student, HiNT

Additional Supporting Instructors:

- Svein Karlsen, County Representative, Nature Management
- Lise Chapman, Marine Biologist, Runde Marine Research Center
- Oddmar Remoy, HiNT Alumnus and Runde Resident

Guest Speakers

- Stian Holmen, Norwegian Akvacenter
- Grethe Lyngås, Stiklestad National Culture Centre Historical landmark
- Ole M. Dale, Norway Nature
- Jo Skorem and Heidi Ydse, The Norwegian Centre for Wild Reindeer Research and Management
- Jo Skorem and Tommy Prestø, Kongs-voll Biological Station
- Kjell Jøran Jåma, Reindeer husbandry
- Steinar Bach, National park management
- Marit Helland and Tord Áberg, The Norwegian Mountain Rangers
**Textbooks:** None.

Readings will consist of relevant articles and scientific papers related to the course content. A partial list of readings include the following:


**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- **Can identify, define, and solve problems**

Students will be introduced to the major ecosystems in Norway, the plant and animal organisms inhabiting these areas, and the strategies employed by biologists and resource managers in managing these ecosystems. Students will also be exposed to the many challenges in managing these resources from both biological and policy perspectives.

Assessment: Students will take one quiz over the three week period that is designed to assess their grasp of the key concepts in the lectures, readings, and field excursions. Students will also write an eight page research/term paper designed to assess students’ ability to synthesize/integrate the major topics covered in the course.

- **Can locate and critically evaluate information**

Students are required to write an eight page research/term paper. Students will locate and evaluate relevant primary, secondary, and web resources to support their research paper topic. At least four sources must be cited in the research paper and a minimum of half of the citations must be from the primary or secondary literature.

Assessment: Research papers will be assessed by the instructor using the specific criteria outlined in the assignment.

- **Can communicate effectively**

Throughout this 3-week course, students will complete daily entries in a reflection journal. Students will be asked to reflect on their impressions of Norwegian culture, traditions, food, physical spaces/geography, etc.
Assessment: Instructor will collect journals at the end of the program and evaluate whether they completed a daily entry, addressed at least some of the recommended questions/areas of emphasis, and the clarity and creativity of their written reflections.

**Evaluation:**

Students’ grades in this course will be determined by: 100 points total

- Participation in class discussions and field excursions – 10 points
- Journal – 10 points
- Quizzes – 30 points
- Research/term paper draft-outline – 5 points
- Final research/term paper - 45 points

Class participation is expected and will be reflected in your grade. The lead instructor will monitor your participation during lectures, discussions, and excursions.

Quiz is designed to assess students’ understanding of the major points discussed in the classroom and field excursions.

The research/term paper is designed to assess students’ ability to synthesize/integrate the topics covered in the course. Students will have an opportunity to develop the research/term paper topic in consultation with the lead instructors in the class.

**Grading guidelines:**

The following grading standards will be used to assign grades in the course:

A/A- = 90-100%    B+/-= 80-89%    C+/=- 70-79%    D+/D = 65-69%    F = < 65%

A 100-94
A- 93.9-90
B+ 89.9-87
B 86.9-83
B- 82.9-80
C+ 79.9-77
C 76.9-73
C- 72.9-70
D+ 69.9-67
D 66.9-65
F 64.9 or lower
Students With Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students with special needs should also contact Disability Services on campus. Their phone number is (612) 624-3316 and website is http://www.ds.umn.edu.

Student Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** submission of false records of academic achievement; cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, please contact Bill Ganzlin.

Updated: November, 2014