

IDS 290AB—LO1 Ecomuseums: Exploring Place

Fall 2015 MW 11:30-12:45 CRN 31606

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An ecomuseum is **developed** by a local community exploring its heritage to help chart a community-shared vision of the future. Ecomuseums assist in sustainable development, and typically include economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental components.

IDS 290AB is a **community-engaged, experiential learning** course. We will be **working directly with a community in southern Saskatchewan** that is developing an ecomuseum. The goals of IDS courses are to look at complex issues from **multidisciplinary** perspectives, and to **develop concrete skills** that are directly transferable to the workplace. Everyone is welcome in IDS 290AB—in fact, we hope that students in a variety of disciplines and students who have not yet chosen a major will take this course. If you are looking for a course that is based on hands-on projects that benefit actual communities, think about IDS 290AB for the Fall 2015 semester. The pre-requisite is completion of 15 credit hours. **In this course you will conduct interviews, produce digital stories, formulate and make presentations, formulate a Research Ethics Board application, conduct research, make maps and displays, design education projects, and provide results to the study community.**

Topics

Ecomuseums, sustainability and sustainable development, Royal Sask Museum, ecomuseums around the world
Place attachment, White Butte Region, field trip to study region and meetings with community groups
Storytelling, research ethics, interviewing, digital storytelling
Interviews, production and publication of digital stories
Curriculum and ecomuseum projects
Final report to the community

Some quotes from students who took IDS 290AB in Fall 2014:

- “It was an adventure! We all contributed, learned and I felt as if what I did was valuable on a real-world scale.”
- “This course was so different from any other course I’ve done. Very good learning opportunity for applicable skills in my career after Graduation.”
- What is the most interesting or important thing you learned in this course? “How to conduct interviews, to present material clearly and effectively.”
- “Field trip to Qu’Appelle Valley helped connect what we were learning.”
- “Everything about the course was interesting.”
- “Thinking about what community means to individuals, importance of environmental factors to personal identity.”
- “Lots of freedom, and group discussion. We had a chance to try things we don’t usually get to.”



ecomuseums