

**Northern Marianas College**  
**CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST**

**Effective Semester / Session:**                      Fall 2003

**Type of Action:**

- New
- Modification
- Cancellation

**Course Alpha and Number:**        NR 295 (Previously BI 295)

**Course Title:**                      Natural Resources Management Seminar

Reason for initiating, modifying, or canceling course, or other pertinent comment:

The change in the alpha is to reflect alphas of similar courses at major U.S. institutions with a natural resources degree program, in order to facilitate articulation.

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*Diana R. Greenough*                      9/18/03  
Proposer    Date

*[Signature]*    9/23/03  
Department Chair    Date

*[Signature]*    12/16/03  
English and Format Reviewer    Date

*[Signature]*    12/16/03  
Academic Council Chair    Date

*[Signature]*    12/17/2003  
Dean of Academic Programs and Services    Date

# Northern Marianas College Course Guide

Course : NR 295 Natural Resources Management Seminar

**1. Department**                      Sciences, Mathematics, & Technology

**2. Purpose**

NR 295 is a required core curriculum course for majors, providing the opportunity for students to become familiar and confident with topics of special interest or current relevance to the physical and applied sciences. This course is the training ground for turning personal observations, classroom theory, field and laboratory experiences into discussion and application of professional ethics and philosophy; a course in "professionalism". This critical aspect of life preparation is frequently overlooked in college training, but determines a student's success or failure as they go through life and their career path. Prospective employers in the governmental and private sectors have frequently requested a course with this focus.

**3. Description**

**A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials**

There is no text for this course. Handouts, Internet and web-based assignments, and related materials will be supplied by the course coordinator as necessary.

**B. Contact Hours**

1. **Lecture:**
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**                      1.5 per week

**C. Credits**

1. **Number:**                      1
2. **Type:**                        Regular degree credit

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### D. Catalogue Course Description

Seminar presentations of topics in the agricultural, environmental, and natural resource sciences by faculty, enrolled students, and invited speakers. NR 295 is a required course for majors designed to familiarize the student with topics of research, special interest, or current relevance in the discipline. Prerequisites: NR 150; English Placement Levels: EN 101, or permission of course coordinator.

### E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

AS degree program in Natural Resources Management.

### F. Course Activities and Design

This course consists of interviews, oral presentations or demonstrations by faculty, students, and invited speakers. Each enrolled student is required to give an oral presentation or a demonstration on a discipline topic for critique by the peer group. Students are expected to take an active role in discussions and the application of professional ethics and philosophy.

### 4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Course Prerequisites: NR 150 or permission of course coordinator.

### 5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

**To the Student:** Tuition for a 1 credit course and all applicable instructional materials and/or technology fees.

**To the College:** Instructor's salary.

### 6. Method of Evaluation

Student progress will be evaluated for this course by attendance, active participation in course discussions, and an oral presentation or demonstration indicating the student's knowledge and understanding of specific subject matter areas within the discipline. NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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## 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

The topical outline for this course will vary each semester in order to provide a broad base for discussion and direct application of professional ethics and philosophy. Special emphasis will be given to student interests, research literature, current activities, and visitors within the natural resources disciplines in the CNMI. Topics will include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1.0 Oral presentations by students in areas of interest;
- 2.0 Oral presentations by departmental faculty;
- 3.0 Invited speakers from various federal and local government agencies whose responsibilities involve water, land, marine, and air stewardship;
- 4.0 Report writing of project reports, analysis reports and writing for scientific publication;
- 5.0 Reading and critiquing scientific journal articles, peer review and critique of student presentations and demonstrations;
- 6.0 Discussions of current environmental activities in the Commonwealth, the Pacific Basin, and the world.

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### 8. Instructional Goals

This course introduces students to:

- 1.0 The concepts of professional ethics and philosophy in science;
- 2.0 A mentored and focused effort to enhance public speaking skills and competencies;
- 3.0 An opportunity to interact with professionals in the discipline;
- 4.0 A mentored and focused effort to enhance technical writing skills and competencies;
- 5.0 The technique of peer review and critiquing scientific journals, presentations, and demonstrations;
- 6.0 Knowledge of environmental activities in the Commonwealth, the Pacific Island states, and the world.

### 9. Student Competencies

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

- 1.0 Explain and discuss the concepts of professional ethics and philosophy in science;
- 2.0 Demonstrate enhanced public speaking skills and competencies;
- 3.0 Confidently interact with professionals in the discipline;
- 4.0 Demonstrate enhanced technical writing skills and competencies;
- 5.0 Explain, demonstrate, and discuss the technique of peer review;
- 6.0 Knowledgeably discuss environmental activities.