Forest Resource Management

FOR 458.001
SPRING 2016

Lecture Meetings: TR 1100-1215 in FO 221
Lab Meetings: Unless otherwise specified, F 1200-1450 in FO 221
Primary Instructor: Dr. Christopher E. Comer, Professor in Forestry
Office: 231
Phone: 468-2317
Email: comerce@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: M 0930-1130, 1300-1500
T 0800-0900
W 0930-1130, 1500-1700
R 0800-0900
Also by appointment

Dr. David Kulhavy, Room 203G, 468-2141, dkulhavy@sfasu.edu.
Dr. Brian Oswald, Room 201B, 468-2275, boswald@sfasu.edu.
Dr. Pat Stephens Williams, Room 204, 468-2196, stephensp@sfasu.edu
Dr. Daniel Unger, Room 217, 468-2234, unger@sfasu.edu.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

4 semester hours, 3 hours lecture per week. Formulation, calculation, writing, and implementation of multiple-use resource management plans and environmental impact statements and assessments. Prerequisites: Forestry Field Station, FOR 435, and GIS 390 or FOR 475. Course fee required.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Forestry 458 is a required class for all forestry majors and thus competency is required. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), as stated in the BSF Program Matrix:

1) Demonstrate mastery of forest ecology and biology,
2) Demonstrate mastery in the measurement of forest resources,
3) Demonstrate mastery in managing forest resources,
4) Demonstrate mastery of forest resource policy, economics, and administration, and
5) Demonstrate mastery in oral and written communication skills.

The above PLOs are also recognized as vital components by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.
B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes

Proficiency Levels

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M – Mastery – FOR 458 supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with opportunities to independently apply tactical and strategic planning skills to successfully accomplish real-world, non-academic management objectives. FOR 458 completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1) Apply all their previous coursework into the formulation, analysis, documentation, and communication of forest management plans. (PLO #1 through 4),

2) Understand professional ethics, including SAF Code of Ethics, & recognition of ethical responsibility to adhere to those ethical standards in forestry decision making on behalf of public and private clients (PLO #4).

3) Communicate management process and recommendations to clients through oral, spatial, and written communication skills (PLO #5).

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This class is the capstone class for all forestry majors and, as such, is intended to allow students to integrate material from throughout their academic experience in the College. Students will research, design, and present management plans for east Texas forest landowners (both public and private) with a variety of goals and objectives that is reflective of real-world situations encountered in the region. Plans will include timber management, wildlife management, forest protection, fire, human dimensions, and any other relevant outcomes. They will be presented in both written and oral form, and must be justified based on sound forest management principles.

REQUIRED TEXT AND OTHER REFERENCE TEXTS

There is no required text for this course, but the students will need their materials from previous classes (i.e., textbooks, lecture notes, and handouts).
COURSE GRADING SYSTEM

Each of the two plans is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points for the semester. Each plan is allotted an equal amount of time for an equal number of points. Students will work in teams to be determined for each plan. Each plan will be due on a date and time to be announced. Failure to turn in the plan by the due date and time will result in a ZERO for that plan. Students’ grades will be based on the written management plan and the oral presentation to a panel of judges. Specific content will vary depending on the tract and detailed instructions about content will be provided during the semester. On a percentage basis, final grades will be computed as: 90+ = A, 80 – 89 = B, 70 – 79 = C, 60 – 69 = D.

COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Plan 1: STMicroelectronics “Swink” Property

Initiation of plan: 1/19
Electronic cruise data files due: 2/5
Maps due to Dr. Unger: 2/25
Fire and Protection Plans reviewed by Drs. Oswald and Kulhavy: 3/4
Written plan due: 3/10 at 1045 in Room 221.
Oral presentations: 3/10 and 3/11 during class and lab times.

Plan 2: Jefferson “EcoTrain” Property

Initiation of plan: 3/21
Maps due to Dr. Unger: 4/22
Written plan due: 5/5 at 1045 in Room 221
Oral presentations: 5/5 and 5/6 during class and lab times

OTHER POLICIES:

Attendance: Due to the nature of this class (variable schedule, working in teams) attendance for every student is critical when designated class activities are going on. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and will be checked at each class meeting. Two unexcused absences will result in your final grade being reduced by one letter grade; an additional letter grade will be deducted for each additional absence. Failure to participate in class-associated field activities (e.g., site visits or cruising) will count as unexcused absences with appropriate loss of points.

Responsible Use of Technology: It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s
ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, etc. The instructors shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program.

Ethics and Professionalism: All of the students in this class and in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. For wildlife biologists and managers, The Wildlife Society has established a Code of Ethics to which these professionals are expected to adhere. I strongly encourage you to read and abide by these guidelines, available at http://www.wildlife.org/who-we-are/code-of-ethics. Remember that most of you are preparing to join either the work force or graduate school as representatives of this College and the profession. Try to begin acting accordingly.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grade Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS),
Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.