I. **Course Number & Title**  
**FOR 451 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas**  
3 Credit Hours – 2 hours lecture per week, 3 hours lab per week  

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday 12:00 – 12:50pm  
Classroom: FO 205  

Lab: TBD  
Classroom: TBD  

**Mandatory Weekends: TBD**  

**Professor**  
**Dr. Shelby Gull Laird**  
Office FO 204  
Email: lairdsg@sfasu.edu  
Office Hours: 10:30am - 11:30am, M & W;  
9:00am - 12pm, Tu; and  
Also by appointment  
Office Phone: 936-468-2014  
Fax: 936-468-2489  

**Textbook**  
None required. Readings will be provided on D2L and/or in class.  

II. **Course Description**  
*Planning, development and maintenance of parks and forest recreation areas.*  
This class exposes students to the policy and ethics related to the management of outdoor recreation sites. This class will focus on learning through experiential and problem-based techniques, which students may find challenging at times. Through a hands-on learning experience with a park, students will have the opportunity to create a management plan for an outdoor recreation area from start to finish and possibly coordinate volunteers to implement one or two different parts of the management plan.  

III. **FOR 451 Student Learning Outcomes**  
1. **Program Learning Outcomes** – The following course learning outcomes have been approved for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program and will be addressed in the course, FOR 451 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas. During and by the end of this course students will be able to:  
   a. To understand federal land management policy and organization,  
   b. To develop an understanding of conceptual frameworks for recreation resource and visitor use management,  
   c. To identify visitor caused impacts to resources and visitor experiences,  
   d. To understand and be able to use management tools designed to reduce recreation related impacts and conflicts,  
   e. To demonstrate an understanding of course material by developing a recreation management plan and a resource impact assessment tool to monitor visitor caused impacts to recreation areas, and  
   f. To demonstrate leadership management skills.  
2. Furthermore, students enrolled in Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas will:  
   a. Explore the field of forest recreation in a hands-on, minds-on manner.  
   b. Become familiar with forest recreation management, the objective of which is to
accomplish a wide array of ecological & social goals.

c. Be prepared to understand how people interact with and connect to the natural world.

3. The following matrix indicates the level at which FOR 451 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas – supports the BSF Program Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Proficiency Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO 1 Forest Ecology &amp; Biology</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2 Forest Resource Measurement</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3 Forest Resource Management</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4 Forest Resource Policy, Economics, Administration</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5 Oral &amp; Written Communication Skills</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M – Mastery – course 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. Course completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.

IV. Course Policies –

A. Social Justice Statement

This course and its instructors expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. This class will be a safe haven for the thoughts and ideals of all students. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

B. 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/

Students with documented disabilities who require course adaptations or accommodations should make an appointment to speak with the Professor.

C. 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 10.4). 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, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor 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. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf

D. Responsible Use of Technology:
It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology 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.

*Because of the nature of this class, bringing your laptop or tablet to class is recommended.*

**E. TESTING & GRADING**

The following is the grading scheme for FOR451:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Assignments</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-led Discussions</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan &amp; Implementation Project</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Course Points** 600

**LETTER GRADES**

- A = 540 + points
- B = 480 - 539 points
- C = 420 - 479 points
- D = 360 - 419 points
- F = 359 points or less

**Grade Appeal:** You will be allowed one week (7 calendar days) from the return of lab reports, assignments, tests, and quizzes to appeal your grade; after one week (7 calendar days), grades are final.

**F. ASSIGNMENTS**

**a. Class Participation & Assignments (90 points):** Students will complete assignments as a part of class activities and actively participate in class as required by the instructor or other guest speakers (6 points each week).

**b. Student-led discussion (50 points):** Students will individually lead a discussion on a class reading, creating questions to lead class discussion. Student will turn a list of their discussion questions at the beginning of the class period they are leading (if you need a copy for yourself, bring two so the instructor has one).

**c. Essay (60 points):** Students will individually write 3 pages, 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced with 1” margins with these two thesis statements (choose your own opinion to defend): “Public lands (should / should not) remain public. They (should / should not) be managed based on best-management practices and sound scientific research.” This essay should include a cover page and a list of references (these are not included in the 3 pages, so 5 pages total). All references should be cited both in-text and listed at the end of the essay in a Literature Cited section using APA referencing format. This essay may be based on the student’s opinion, but it must back up that opinion with factual, quality, peer-reviewed or highly reputable references.

**d. Management Plan & Implementation Project (400 points total):** Students will, as a group, develop a comprehensive management plan for a park, creating a draft for the park management to review and present for public comment. Students will complete both a written plan as well as present this plan to the park superintendent at the end of the session. Students will have the opportunity to visit the park and collect any needed data as well as talk to park interpreters and selected guests. The management plan will be completed in several parts.

**i. Part 1: Summary of Cultural and Natural Resources (50 points).** Students will write a brief (2-5 page) summary of the total cultural and natural resources of the park. This should include at least one map, if not more.
ii. **Part 2: Data Collection & Memo (50 points).** Students will plan for questions and data collection while on site through creating a comprehensive list of questions they need answers to in order to complete their plan. Students will choose the data they wish to collect onsite versus the data they could obtain through inquiries, research, or other means. This plan may look different in each group, but should consist of a table of questions and possible answer sources and a separate data collection plan with developed tables or questionnaires. Students will write a brief (<3 page) memo outlining the data collected during the field trip and how this will help in writing the final management plan of the park.

iii. **Part 3: Management Plan (100 points).** Students will write a comprehensive management plan. Details will be provided at a later time as to the required sections. Some sections will be optional or may vary by group. Our goal is to create one complete, comprehensive plan as a class.

iv. **Part 4: Project Implementation (100 points).** Students will begin to implement part of the management plan they are in charge of as recommended by the Nacogdoches County Parks Advisory Board.

v. **Part 5: PowerPoint Document and Presentation (60 points).** Students will create a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes their management plan & implementation project. Students will follow the sections of their plan and highlight any unique perspectives or ideas from their plan during the presentation. Each member of the group must participate in the presentation given during the last laboratory session of the year (Time TBD).

vi. **Part 6: Group Evaluation (40 points).** Students will evaluate themselves and their group members on participation in the projects.

c. **Final Exam:** An optional final exam will be available to students who need to make up points and will consist of 100 percent, replacing any graded item of choice using the percentage to calculate points for that item.

G. **EXAM (OPTIONAL)**

FOR 451 optional exam will be administered as a take-home option for anyone who desires to take it and will replace the grade for any graded item of choice using the percentage to calculate the points for that item. No make up exams will be given for this optional, take-home exam.

H. **Withheld Grades (Course Grades policy 5.5)**

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.

I. **Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)**

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/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

**Consequences of Academic Dishonesty (Cheating) in FOR 451**

a. The following consequences will be applied to students who are determined to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy in FOR 451:
   i. **1st time** - Students who violate the above Academic Integrity policy (cheat) on any test or assignment will be given a zero for that test or assignment.
   ii. **2nd time** – Students who violate the above Academic Integrity policy (cheat) for the second time on any test or assignment will receive an “F” as a final course grade.
   iii. **Plagiarism** is a very serious form of Academic Dishonesty and will be handled as outlined above in Items i. & ii.
   iv. **Note:** The instructor reserves the right to skip the 1st offense and move directly to 2nd offense consequences if the cheating or plagiarism is severe. This decision will be made with the assistance of the Associate Dean.

**J. Attendance & Tardiness:**

a. **LECTURE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY IN FOR 451.**
   b. *For each unexcused absence over three (3), five percent (5%) may be deducted from the student’s earned points at the end of the semester. This policy will be strictly enacted.*
   c. Students are expected to be on time for each lecture. Please arrive to class on time. If late entries become disruptive, students may be restricted from entering class late.

**K. Be Prepared:** Students are responsible for reading the assigned reading before class. That will increase your understanding of the material, improve discussions, and improve your grade in the course.

**L. Professionalism:** College of Forestry & Agriculture students are expected to look and act like professionals. Professionals act with integrity and dress appropriately for class & lab. Students may not wear hats in any Forestry or Ag building.

**M. Classroom Interaction:**

a. **Please ask questions.** This is an interactive class and discussion is important. I welcome questions and will make every effort to get you the information that you seek. You may be helping the entire class when you ask your question.
   b. **Classroom Behavior:** Disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful 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. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is considered to be appropriate or inappropriate in the classroom.
   c. **IMPORTANT!!** Handouts and Reading Material will be e-mailed to you, put on D2L or handed out in lectures and labs. Please check D2L and your email for important information. For testing purposes you are responsible for all assignments and for the information in handout materials.

**N. The Fall 2017, FOR 451 Final Exam will be given on an as needed basis.**