FORESTRY 460: RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

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Student Intern: Megan Knippers  
Job Title: Research Intern  
Company/Agency: Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

Course Description:  
This course is intended for undergraduate students to secure a practical internship, external to Stephen F. Austin State University, to obtain field, technical, and professional experiences in the wildlife biology and management field. In this case, the student will spend approximately 40 hrs per week over the summer field season assisting with a graduate student research project on the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas.

Program Learning Outcomes (This is not a general education course): Forestry 152 is one of the forestry core courses required of all forestry majors and thus competency is required. A minimum grade of a “C” must be attained or the course will have to be repeated. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the BSF Program Matrix:

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology (PLO1);
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources (PLO2);
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources (PLO3);
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration (PLO4);
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills (PLO5).

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students should:

1. Understand the basics of state park management and law enforcement at state parks as practiced by the state natural resource agency (A, PLO #3, 4).
2. Develop effective communication skills, particularly face-to-face, for dealing with the public about management and recreational use of natural resources (A, PLO #5).

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Internship Summary (35 points)
This will be a typed report of your internship, and should serve to focus your thoughts and ideas for developing your internship presentation. There is no maximum length, but should be more than 2-3 pages. The following are required sections of the summary. Your faculty advisor will grade the report based upon completeness and organization.

Introduction:
• What were the primary goals of the research internship that you worked on?

Duties:
• What were your duties/jobs/responsibilities as related to the goals?
• Were there any data or evaluations performed to evaluate the results of your work? If so, please describe.

Reflection:
• What was your overall impression of the internship?
• What new techniques or aspects of wildlife management did you learn about during your internship?
• How has this internship changed or sharpened your career goals and objectives? Have they become more focused?
• Would you recommend pursuing this type of internship to other students?
• Would you pursue another internship similar to the one you completed?

2. Internship Presentation (35 points)
This will be a 15-20 minute presentation to be delivered at a meeting of The Student Chapter of Wildlife Society or similar forum (e.g., FOR 111 or 251). It will be an oral presentation, using PowerPoint or some other multimedia tool. The presentation should present the information written about in your Internship Summary; however, feel free to change the focus as needed to increase interest and information content for your peers. Please coordinate with me and The Student Chapter to arrange for a spot in one of their meeting agendas. Your faculty advisor will grade based upon professionalism, content, and overall delivery.

3. Internship Evaluation Form, from Internship Field Supervisor (30 points)
The internship field supervisor will fill out an Internship Evaluation Form. If the student does not return the completed form, all 30 points will be deducted from the final grade. Moreover, the evaluation needs to be positive in order for the student to receive all 30 points.

Schedule:
The internship summary should be turned in no later than the final day of classes for the semester in which the internship takes place. The presentation will also be completed by this time or at the first available opportunity for a meeting of the Student Chapter. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for the presentation to take place by the required date.
Other:
Any incidence of plagiarizing or other academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and the student will be reported to the Dean of the College of Forestry and Agriculture.

Students seeking special disability accommodation must first self-identify with the Office of Disabled Student Services (468-3004). Please see the instructor as soon as possible if you have a documented disability that will require course accommodations.