An Investigation of the Monetization of Ecosystem Services in Costa Rica

FOR 463 FOR Special Problems (3 credits)
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

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Class meeting time and place: by arrangement

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Extra Help: Without an appointment: Any time during office hours.
            With an appointment: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday - Sunday.

Recommended Text: NA

Course Description: This course will focus on the monetization of ecosystem services in Costa Rica. Costa Rica is striving to be the “greenest” country in the world. Laws, regulations and rules have been instituted to achieve their goals. This course will study the “blue print” as to how a country can utilize their natural resources while striving to become the world leader in protecting natural resources from over development while increasing employment and raising the countries standard of living.

Prerequisites: The student must be a senior in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objective: Students will develop an overview of a system for the monetization of forest ecosystems.

Program Learning Outcomes: This is a general education core curriculum course. At the completion of this course, the student must be able to:

1. demonstrate mastery of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.
2. demonstrate mastery in oral and written communication skills.

Mastery means that the course provides the student with opportunities to independently apply tactical and strategic planning skills to successfully accomplish real-world, non-academic management objectives.
**Course Requirements:**

As the work progresses, the student will be required to make a series of presentations and produce a written document to answer the questions.

**Grading Policy:** The student will be graded on their formal oral presentations, their ability to answer questions on the subject, and their written review.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is mandatory.

**Academic Integrity:** 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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:** 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
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, 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.