Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas
FOR 451, Stephen F. Austin State University
Fall 2019
Class Hours: Labs and Consultation Meetings as Assigned
Mandatory Weekends for Site Visits as Assigned

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Office Hours:
Available all week.
Room 209
Available all week.
Tuesday 8-9:30.
Thursday 8-9:30, 1:00 - 3:00.
Email for faster reply or to arrange a phone call during
office hours or at other times during the week!!!!
Meetings are sometimes scheduled across these hours
beyond my control, particularly on Thursdays. If so, I
will return your email/call at the earliest available time.

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.

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 public and/or private 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.

ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS

a. Class Participation & Assignments (100 points): Students will complete assignments and lab site visits as necessary, assigned by instructors, and as indicated for the completion of the major project.

b. Readings and Discussion (200 points): Each week you will be required to complete a series or readings appropriate to park management and your upcoming plan. These readings are located in d2l. You will respond to the prompt associated with the readings in d2l.

c. Maintenance Experience (200): Each student will participate in at least one maintenance visit/event at the camp to gain experience in camp management care. These projects will be designated and supervised by the camp ranger. You can expect to spend several hours at the camp and wear appropriate clothing and equipment to conduct specific tasks indicated.

d. Management Plan & Implementation Project (200 points total):
Students will, as a group, develop a comprehensive management plan for the designated site (2019 is Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp), 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 representatives of the San Jacinto Girl Scout Council at the end of the semester. Students will have the opportunity to visit the camp and collect any needed data as well as talk to the camp ranger and selected guests. The management plan will be completed in several parts. Use LAC, VERP and any other models you may find that seem appropriate for the objectives put forth by the Girl Scout Council. At the very least you will include a resource inventory, a communications plan, a comprehensive trails map, a maintenance schedule, and recommendations to meet the future needs of the camp at little or no cost. As with all aspects, remember it is about knowing what you have, how it needs to be managed and how you are
going to evaluate, measure, meet specific thresholds, and manage the resources and campers. This, as all plans, will be a work in progress. Every site is different, every client is different.

- **Part 1: Summary of Cultural and Natural Resources (30 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.

- **Part 2: Data Collection & Memo (20 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.

- **Part 3: Management Plan (75 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.

- **Part 4: PowerPoint Document and Presentation (75 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).

**Attendance & Tardiness:**

A. **SITE VISIT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY IN FOR 451.**
B. **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.
C. **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.
D. **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.

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**GRADING**

The following is the grading scheme for FOR 451:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Site Visits</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Responses</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Experience</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan &amp; Implementation Project</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Course Points**: 1000 points

**LETTER GRADES**

A = 900-1000 + points  
B = 800 - 899 points  
C = 700 - 799 points  
D = 600 – 699 points  
F = 599 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.
For Administrative and Assessment purposes the following matrix indicates the level at which FOR 451 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas:

Recreation Areas – supports the BSF Program Learning Outcomes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>M</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A – Not Applicable</td>
<td>B-Basic</td>
<td>I-Intermediate</td>
<td>A-Advanced</td>
<td>M-Mastery</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.

**Course Policies –**

**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.

**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/). Students with documented disabilities who require course adaptations or accommodations should make an appointment to speak with the Professor.

**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

**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.*

**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.

**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**

**d.** 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.