FIRE USE IN FIRE MANAGEMENT
FORESTRY 463 (438)/575

Instructor: Dr. Brian Oswald
Email: boswald@sfasu.edu
Office: FOR 201B
Office Hours: M, W, 10:00-11:00; 1-4, T, R 8:9:15
In addition, open door policy and by appointment.
Department: Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture
Class Meeting time and place: M, W: 8:00-8:50, Room 225 Forestry Building
Lab: Friday 8:00-noon Room 221 Forestry Building

Course Description: Study of fire in land management. Preparation of burning plans and field applications of prescribed burns. Possible required field trips.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s):

The following course learning outcomes (PLO’s) have been approved for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program:

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:
1: Demonstrate knowledge of prescribed fire policy (M, PLO2).
2: Demonstrate competency in writing prescribed burn plans (A, PLO4).
3: Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of fire weather (M, PLO2).
4: Demonstrate a strong background in fire prediction/behavior models (B, PLO3; A, PLO4).
5: Demonstrate the ability to critically think about Wildland fire issues as well as communicate in both written and oral forms (M, PLO5).

B: Basic – course supports Project Learning outcome by providing students with fundamental information, definitions, concepts and lab activities relative to the expected outcomes.
I – Intermediate – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with topic-specific information, concepts, applications, and lab activities that increase the students’ skills in making tactical implementation decisions relative to the expected outcomes.

A: Advanced – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with transitional, high level topic-specific information, activities, and opportunities that enable the students to apply their critical thinking and tactical skills to resolved increasingly challenging strategic situations.

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. Completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.


Course Calendar:

Weeks 1-2: Introduction to Prescribed Fire (Pyne, chapter 10)
Week 3: Fire Suppression (Pyne, chapter 9)
Week 4-5: Smoke Management
Week 6: BMP’s and Fire
Midterm
Weeks 7-10: Writing Prescriptions
Weeks 11-15: Fire Computer Models/Presentations

Course Requirements:

1 exam worth 30% of final grade. (waived if class discussions are of high quality)
Prescriptions worth 40 % of final grade.
Down load and develop presentation on one computer fire program other than BehavePlus. 30%.

Grading Policy and class attendance:
Class attendance is expected except for valid excuses. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences during the semester-each unexcused absence after that will cost you 2% from your final grade %. Make up exams must be turn in within 1 week of excused absence of the tests.
Participation and attitude will be used on borderline cases. I will make every effort to return assignments within 1 week of the due date. Because I do travel as part of my
faculty responsibilities, I may not be able to reach these goals. Since the weight of each assignment is listed above, students should be able to determine their own performance in the class. **Do not expect me do to this for you!**

**Attendance Policy:**
Class attendance is expected except for valid excuses. Students are expected as part of their responsibilities to complete the on-line course evaluation via MySFA. **Failure to complete this evaluation before the closing of access to the survey will be result in one letter grade penalty.**

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

Cheating or plagiarism may result in a least a “zero” on the assignment in question, and possibly an “F” for the course. Students are urges to make sure they do their own work, make sure the papers they write are cited correctly, and most importantly, are in their own words! SFA Policy A-9.1 defines what constitutes cheating and plagiarism. While the policy does appear to allow for the cutting and pasting of information from a published source as long as proper credit is given, those actions will not be allowed.

**Withheld Grades 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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).