CAREERS AND COMPETENCIES IN FORESTRY
FORS 1311-001, -002; FORS 1011-020, -021, -022, -023
Fall 2020
Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture

INSTRUCTORS
Professor:  Mr. John Kidd, PhD candidate
Office: FORS 204
Office Hours:  Online / Zoom by appointment only during
              Tues, Thurs 9:30-11:30am
              Wed 11:00am-12:00pm
Email: kiddjb@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2014  Fax: 936-468-2489

GTA:  Ms. Lauren Lara, M.S. Graduate Teaching Assistant
Office: FORS 215
Office Hours:  Online / Zoom by appointment only during
              Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10:00am – 12:00pm
Email: laralr@jacks.sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-1270

GTA:  Mr. Will Steinley, M.S. Graduate Teaching Assistant
Office: FORS 215
Office Hours:  Online / Zoom by appointment only during
              Mon, Wed 12:00 - 1:00pm
              Tues, Thurs, Fri 12:00 – 2:00pm
Email: steinleywj@jacks.sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-1270

MEETINGS
Lectures:  Mon. & Wed. 8:00 - 8:50am (FOR 117); or
          Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 – 8:50am, (McKibben 131)
Labs:  Mon. 1:00 – 3:50pm (Brundrett), Tues. 2:00 – 4:50pm (Brundrett), Wed. 1:00 –
       3:50pm (FORS 222), or Thurs. 2:00 – 4:50pm (FORS 222);
       Occasional other meetings with prior notice

TEXTBOOK (Required)

Additional readings or study materials will be provided on D2L (Brightspace) and/or in class.

MATERIALS (Required)
Hard-hat; covered clipboard; writing implements; reusable water bottle; hand-held calculator;
hiking/work boots that reach above the ankle (NO low-quarter shoes); ankle-length pants;
sleeved shirt; handheld compass with declination (Silva Ranger 2 is recommended). Optional materials include: rainwear; and warm clothing for cold days.

For your safety absolutely NO shorts, Capri pants, athletic pants (e.g., leggings or sweatpants), flip-flops, backless shoes, or sandals will be allowed to be worn in field labs. **If you come to a field lab dressed inappropriately you will not be allowed to attend laboratory and your absence will be considered unexcused.**

**SARS-CoV-2 FACE MASK POLICY**
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn to cover the nose and mouth at all times in this course and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not appropriately wearing a mask and/or not practicing appropriate physical distancing will be directed to leave the class session. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or practicing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students reported for multiple infractions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
3 Credit Hours – 2 hours lecture & 3 hours lab per week. *Introduction to the multiple use concepts of forestry and basic techniques of forest resource management. Required field trips. Course fee required.*

The desired outcome of FORS 1311, Careers and Competencies in Forestry, is to introduce students to an array of forestry topics, from forest history to human interactions with forests’ natural renewable resources to technical knowledge & skills that are used in the practice and philosophy of forestry. Students should also be familiar with a variety of career options available to forestry majors.

Students will enter subsequent Forestry courses with knowledge & skills grounded in the terminology and concepts that are universal to the practice of forestry and that form a base for making renewable natural resource decisions.

**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 FORS 1311. During and by the end of this course students will be able to:
   a. Demonstrate understanding and competency in forest ecology and biology;
   b. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;
   c. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;
   d. Demonstrate understanding and competency in forest resource policy, economics, and administration.
   e. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.
2. Furthermore, students enrolled in Introduction to Forestry will:
   a. Explore the field of Forestry in a hands-on, minds-on manner.
   b. Become familiar with renewable resource management, the objective of which is to accomplish a wide array of ecological & social goals.
c. Be prepared to determine if forestry is the profession that they desire to pursue through a clear understanding of forestry related career options.
d. Be prepared for successful accomplishment of subsequent forestry courses.

3. The following matrix indicates the level at which FORS 1311 supports the BSF Program Learning Outcomes – “B” = “BASIC”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>PLO #1</th>
<th>PLO #2</th>
<th>PLO #3</th>
<th>PLO #4</th>
<th>PLO #5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Common Core</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 1311</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE CALENDAR**
See the associated Lecture and Lab Schedules for detailed information.
Lab Final Exam: during lab period of Dead Week
Final Exam: MW section: Wed. Dec. 9 from 8:00 – 10:30am; TR section: Thur. Dec. 10, 8:00 - 10:30am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro to FORS 1311 / Forest History</td>
<td>Syllabus/ Ch1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Forest Policy / US Distribution</td>
<td>Ch3/ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Forest Ecology / Site Index</td>
<td>Ch9/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Forest Mgmt Issues / Climate Change</td>
<td>Ch10/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forest Mgmt at Diverse Levels / Resumes</td>
<td>Ch4, 5, 6/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Forest Products / TBD</td>
<td>Ch14/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong> / Silviculture</td>
<td>./ Ch15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Silviculture / TBD</td>
<td>Ch11/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Watersheds &amp; BMPs / Range Mgmt</td>
<td>Ch20/ 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Forest Fire Mgmt / TBD</td>
<td>Ch16/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Texas Forest Service / TBD</td>
<td>Ch5, 19/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Texas Forestry Assoc. / <strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td>Ch 5, 6/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Recreation Mgmt / Forestry Internships</td>
<td>Ch17/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Urban Forestry / TBD</td>
<td>Ch22/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRADING

FORS 1311/1011 is a Forestry Core course. Students planning to earn a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF), regardless of their major or concentration, must have a grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” in this course in order to graduate with the BSF degree.

Common Forestry Core Grade Policy

The faculty of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture unanimously approved a new Forestry Core Course grade policy in effect since August 25, 2008 that states: all students entering the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture for the first time in or after the Fall 2008 semester must earn a grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” in each course in the Common Core of Forestry & in Forestry Field Station in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. The “C or above” policy does not apply to courses taken as part of the student’s particular emphasis or concentration such as Forest Management, Forest Wildlife Management, etc. For major concentration courses a student must earn a passing grade of “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D”.

This policy is different from the grade policy of Stephen F. Austin State University which states that a student must earn a grade point average of 2.000 or higher in each of their major, minor (if any), & overall academic work from SFA in order to earn a degree from SFA.

If you have questions about this policy please contact Dr. Matthew McBroom, Associate Dean, at mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu or 936-468-2469.

Grading / Point Rubric for FORS 1311:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Material Covered</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Assignments</td>
<td>classwork, quizzes, homework</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1, 2</td>
<td>lecture, textbooks, handouts</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>comprehensive lecture, texts, handouts</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>memos, technical reports, etc</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Midterm Exam</td>
<td>practical skills, lab info</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Final Exam</td>
<td>comprehensive practical + lab info</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades are based on earned point totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentile Grade</th>
<th>Point Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90%</td>
<td>990-1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>880-989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>770-879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>660-769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0-659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

v. 20200820
Late assignment penalty: All assignments are due on time. Lecture assignments submitted even one second late will incur a 10% penalty for each 24 hours it is late, including weekend days (no assignments will be picked up on the weekend, so they count as being turned in at 8am on Monday). After 10 calendar days, the assignment grade is zero. Late lab assignments (memos, technical reports, etc.) will be accepted only at the discretion of the professor. The lowest lab report grade (or zero) may be dropped from final grade calculations.

Assignment grades may be appealed no later than 7 calendar days from the return of lab reports, assignments, tests, and quizzes.

Exams
Exams will be administered according to the lecture and lab schedules as part of this syllabus unless announced otherwise by the professor.

Make-up exams may be given only upon the professor’s receipt of a documented medical excuse or a university-approved absence excuse provided by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students with prior knowledge of exam conflicts due to university-approved excuses must schedule to take a make-up exam with the professor at least one week prior to the original exam date. A student missing an exam due to circumstances outside of their control who wishes to make up an exam must consult with the professor and complete the make-up exam will have 7 calendar days after they return to school; after 7 calendar days the student will receive a “0” for that exam. Make-up exams for unexcused absences will not be given and will be counted as “0” for that exam.

ATTENDANCE (See University Policy 6.7 below)
Attendance is mandatory for lecture and lab. Labs will meet in the assigned classroom of the Forestry Building, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor. Lab assignments will be due at the beginning of the lab period. Absences from lab will result in a grade of zero for any assignments or exams due for the lab missed; you may not submit lab assignments for labs you miss. If you are late to class, the assignment will be marked as late and will incur a penalty.

Root Camp is Mandatory! It will be 9/12, 8-5pm, and 9/13 1-5pm. Do not miss Root Camp. See the Professor now if you are going to miss for a university approved reason / absence.

Arrive to lecture and lab classes on time. If late entries become disruptive, students may be restricted from entering class late (i.e., the door will be locked shut). Do not leave lab before it ends; if you must leave lab for emergencies, notify the instructor beforehand.

Unexcused absence penalty: 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.
OTHER 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 respectful thoughts and ideals of all students. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

Be Prepared
Arrive on time for lecture or lab. If the door is locked when you arrive, do not knock – you’ve missed class and need to get the notes from a classmate later.

Students are responsible for reading the assigned text chapter(s) before coming to class. Reading ahead will increase your understanding of the material, improve discussions, and improve your grade in the course!

Always be prepared to go into the forest for labs by bringing the appropriate materials and being dressed for safety in the field. If you arrive without appropriate dress for lab, you will not go to lab.

Seat Belts in College Vehicles
In accord with SFA University Policy and the laws of the State of Texas, all occupants of any college vehicle will wear a seat belt when riding in that vehicle. There will be no exceptions to this policy. In accord with Texas law, any unrestrained vehicle occupant who is over the age of 15 may be issued a citation for failure to wear a seat belt.

We need van drivers for some of the lab periods. Please see one of your instructors if you would like to become a driver in the Forestry department.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty (Cheating and Plagiarism; see Policy 4.1)
The following consequences will be applied to students who are determined to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy in this course:

1st time* - Students who violate the above Academic Integrity policy (cheat) on any exam or assignment will be given a zero for that exam or assignment.

2nd time – Students who violate the above Academic Integrity policy (cheat) for the second time on any exam or assignment will receive an “F” as a final course grade.

Plagiarism is a very serious form of Academic Dishonesty and will be handled as outlined above for cheating.

*For severe instances of violation of this policy, the instructor reserves the right to proceed directly to the 2nd offense consequences; this decision will be made with assistance from the Associate Dean.
Professionalism
Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture students are expected to look and act like professionals. That includes dressing appropriately for class & lab. **Students may not wear hats in any Forestry or Ag building.**

Ethics and Professionalism: All of the students in this class and in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. The Society of American Foresters has a published code of ethics for foresters and others in the forestry profession. Likewise, for wildlife biologists and managers, The Wildlife Society has established a Code of Ethics to which these professionals are expected to adhere. I encourage you to read and abide by these guidelines, available at: [https://www.eforester.org/Main/About/Code_of_Ethics_and_Bylaws/CodeofEthics.aspx](https://www.eforester.org/Main/About/Code_of_Ethics_and_Bylaws/CodeofEthics.aspx) (for the Society of American Foresters) and [https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/20190304-Code-of-Ethics.pdf](https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/20190304-Code-of-Ethics.pdf) (for the Wildlife Society).

Classroom Interaction
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.

Classroom behavior: See Policy 10.4 below. I do not like talking while guests are talking, texting in class, and general disruptions.

Responsible Use of Technology
Students are expected to only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or **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.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**
**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. Read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

Course and Withheld 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. Read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (Policy 6.1)
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, or by phone at 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.

Class Attendance (Policy 6.7)
Students are expected to attend all classes, laboratories, and other class-related activities on a regular and punctual basis. Attendance policies will be stated in the course syllabus. For those classes where attendance is a factor in the course grade, and accurate record of attendance will be maintained. Read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-6.7.pdf.

Student Conduct Code (Policy 10.4)
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. Read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf.

Smoking, Vaping, and Use of Tobacco Products (Policy 13.21)
University Policy 13.21 states that campus is tobacco and vape free. This includes all tobacco and vape related products, and includes all activities during field labs! See: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/smoking-vaping-and-use-of-tobacco-products-13.21.pdf.

Firearms, Explosives, and Ammunition Policy (Policy 13.9)
University Policy 13.9 deals with firearms and the concealed carry policy. Students with concealed carry licenses that choose to carry on campus are required to follow all Texas laws and University policies and it is their responsibility to understand and comply accordingly. See: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/13.9-firearms-explosives-and-ammunition.pdf.