I. **Course Number & Title**

FOR 457 – Environmental Issues & Attitudes  
3 Credit Hours

**Professor**  
Dr. Gary Kronrad  
Email: gdkronrad@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936 468-2473  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Textbook**  
Readings will be in D2L or generated as needed per selected topics.

II. **Course Description**  
Overview of the global historical origins and current influences on attitudes toward the outdoor environment. Examination and discussion of environmental policy, ethics and issues. Spring only.  
This class will focus on learning through experiential and problem-based techniques, which students may find challenging at times. Through hands-on learning experiences, students will have the opportunity to apply their learning to real world situations and scenarios.

III. **FOR 457 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 457 – Environmental Attitudes and Issues. During and by the end of this course students will be able to:  
   a. Demonstrate understanding and competency of in managing forest resources.  
   b. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.  
   c. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

2. Furthermore, students enrolled in FOR 457 – Environmental Attitudes and Issues will:  
   a. Analyze and discuss the history of, and current issues and trends in, natural resource management, environmental policy, attitudes, and ethics.  
   b. Analyze, discuss and apply environmental dispute resolution, the crucial conversation framework, debunking strategies and other communication tools to increase science understanding and effective decision making.  
   c. Identify the hallmarks and responsibilities of an informed citizenry, reflecting upon one’s own contribution to environmental policy, resources management,
and a sustainable lifestyle.

d. Discuss the role of public land managing agencies in shaping and implementing environmental policy and soliciting and responding to public input.

e. Demonstrate an understanding of a wide range of ethical frameworks that shape environmental policy.

f. Analyze natural resource issues and policies from multiple points of view and at various scales, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches and perspectives.

g. Discuss the challenges associated with managing natural resources for multiple use, economic efficiency, and long-term sustainability, identifying a range of possible solutions to specific goals.

h. Explore the field of natural resources management in a hands-on, minds-on manner.

i. Be prepared to understand how people interact with and connect to the natural world.

3. The following matrix indicates the level at which FOR 457 – Environmental Attitudes & Issues - supports the BSF Program Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Proficiency Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO 1 Forest Ecology &amp; Biology</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2 Forest Resource Measurement</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3 Forest Resource Management</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4 Forest Resource Policy, Economics, Administration</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5 Oral &amp; Written Communication Skills</td>
<td>M</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.

IV. Course Policies –

A. 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.

B. 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, 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.
C. **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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf)

D. **Responsible Use of Technology:** It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop or tablet computers, MP3 players, and related devices outside of class time or when appropriate in class. **Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop/tablet 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.

E. **TESTING & GRADING**

a. The following is the grading scheme for FOR451:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Participation &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>100 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue/Case Study Presentations (2)</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Stakeholders (10)</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Course Points</th>
<th>500 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**LETTER GRADES**

- A = 450+ points
- B = 400 - 449 points
- C = 350 - 399 points
- D = 300 - 349 points
- F = 299 points or less

b. **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.

F. **ASSIGNMENTS**

a. **Class Participation & Assignments (100 points):** Students will complete assignments as a part of class activities and actively participate in class as required by the instructor or other guest speakers.

b. **Issue/Case Study Presentation (200 points):** Students will individually lead two discussion on a particular issue/case study on an environmental issue. Each student will be responsible for providing reading/multimedia as needed. Each student will be responsible for participating in at least 10 discussions and leading two discussions during the semester. Students must create questions that lead to discussion among the class, ensure adequate representation of all viewpoints fairly, develop a possible solution to the identified “problem(s),” and demonstrate leadership and teambuilding skills through their presentation. Student will turn in a copy of their questions / preparation made for the
discussion at the beginning of the class period they are leading. Each Case Study presentation will take approximately 30-45 minutes.

c. **Understanding Stakeholders (200 points – 20 each):** Students will investigate a specific stakeholder for each topic presented for discussion in class and represent that stakeholder in the subsequent discussion.

**G. 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.

**H. 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/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf)

**Consequences of Academic Dishonesty (Cheating) in FOR 457**
The following consequences will be applied to students who are determined to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy in FOR 457:

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.

**I. Attendance & Tardiness:**

a. **LECTURE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY IN FOR 457.**
b. *For each unexcused absence over one (1), five percent (5%) may be deducted from the student's earned points at the end of the semester. This policy will be strictly enacted.*
c. Students are expected to be on time for each lecture. Please arrive to class on time. If late entries become disruptive, students may be restricted from entering class late.
d. For an excused absence, when at all possible (which is almost always) you must notify the instructor in writing (email will do) before the class you missed with your university approved evidence of excuse.

**J. Be Prepared:** Students are responsible for reading the assigned reading or watching any videos before coming to class. That will increase your understanding of the material, improve discussions, and improve your grade in the course.
K. **Professionalism:** 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.

L. **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.

M. 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/13.21_smoking-vaping-and-use-of-tobacco-products.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/13.21_smoking-vaping-and-use-of-tobacco-products.pdf)

N. 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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/13.9_Firearms_Explosives_and_Ammunition.pdf)