FOR 575-002: Advanced Dendrology Practicum, Spring 2020

Course Details

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Stovall  
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Office: 214 Forestry  
Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants: Ms. Cassey Edwards  
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Mr. Niyi Ajala  
Email: ajalaoo@jacks.sfasu.edu

Generally I maintain an open door policy, and keep a schedule posted by my door. My desk is in the back room, so come on in if the door is open. Please feel free to stop by my office whenever. If you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by email. I check email frequently and reply as soon as possible, within 24 hours M - F at most. Please contact me (not the TAs) regarding concerns about your grade or absences.

Lab: 2:00pm – 4:50pm Tuesday, Forestry 221, OR  
1:00pm – 3:50pm Wednesday, Forestry 208

Course Description

FOR 575. Advanced Dendrology Practicum - 1 semester hour, 3 hours lab per week. Field identification and silvical characteristics of angiosperms and gymnosperms. Required field trips.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology;  
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;  
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;  
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.  
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

*Items #1 - #4 above are required by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.  
*This is not a General Education Core Course

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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.

Revised 12.03.2019
**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon the completion of this course, successful students will:

1. Identify common native and introduced woody plant species of east Texas in the field year-round (PLO 1).
2. Identify unknown woody specimens using textbooks, field guides, and electronic resources (PLO 1, 2).
3. Explain how morphology (leaf, twig, flower, fruit, bark, form) varies among & within species (PLO 1, 2).

**Text and Materials**

- **RECOMMENDED**: Fountain et al. *Winter Key to Deciduous Woody Plants of East Texas* (ISBN 9780934115049) *This text is cheapest if you buy it from the Forestry front office.*
- **REQUIRED**: A clip board or binder with capacity to store material out of sight.
- **REQUIRED**: A hand lens for magnifying features. Lenses similar to this one work well in the field.
- **REQUIRED**: A small sharp knife.
- **REQUIRED**: A hard hat.
- **RECOMMENDED**: *Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.*

**Course Website**

Dendrology will be managed through the course website, which can be found at: [http://forestry.sfasu.edu/faculty/stovall/dendrology/](http://forestry.sfasu.edu/faculty/stovall/dendrology/) *(it also comes up first if you google 'SFA dendro').*

Lecture notes, course documents, lab documents, and grades will all be available on the site once you log in. I’ll help you set up your log in credentials during the second scheduled class. Additionally, there are numerous study tools available, including image quizzes, scientific name quizzes, photographs of the lab species, links to other useful dendrology resources, past exams, and species lists for exams. We’ll review these tools in class.

**Course Requirements**

**Lab Quizzes**: During labs we will intermittently stop at ‘quiz trees’. At each quiz tree the student will identify in writing the FAMILY (2 pts), GENUS (2 pts), SPECIFIC EPITHET (2 pts), and COMMON NAME (6 pts). One point will be deducted for incorrect spelling of each of the FAMILY, GENUS, or SPECIFIC EPITHET. Full credit will be given for the common name as long as it is clear to the instructor that the student knows the identity of the species (at my or the TA’s discretion). No credit will be given for excessively generic answers (e.g. only writing ‘oak’). The best common name to use to avoid confusion is always the name on the master species list that is available on the course website. The lab big quiz will be the same as the regular quizzes except that approximately 25 specimens will be given rather than the usual 10. No new species will be taught on that day.

The number of quiz specimens may vary from week to week and from lab to lab. All specimens are equal in point value, thus each student’s grade for the lab will be determined as the number of points earned divided by the number of points possible for that student. For example, Jimmy Q. Student was quizzed on 100 specimens over the semester and earned 960 points total. Jimmy’s final grade for the lab quizzes was thus [960 points earned / (12 points per specimen * 100 specimens)] = 80%. Grades will be available on the course website throughout the semester so students can monitor their progress.

Revised 12.03.2019
Grading Policy

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Lab Quizzes</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>&gt;89.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>COURSE GRADE</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>79.45 – 89.44%</td>
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<td>69.45 – 79.44%</td>
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<td>59.45 – 69.44%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&lt;59.45%</td>
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Final course grades or individual assignment grades may be curved if deemed appropriate by the instructor. Applying a curve will not result in the lowering of any student’s grade. Additionally, bonus opportunities are offered to the entire class and will be evaluated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. A list of bonus opportunities is available on the course website. It is strongly recommended that all students complete as many bonus opportunities as possible to improve their tree identification skills.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Class session attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken within the first 5 minutes of all classroom and lab sessions. Your ability to make up a lab for an excused absence will depend on the scheduling constraints of the instructor and teaching assistant(s). We will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate you, but may not be able to. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND ALL LABS.** Remember that a makeup lab requires approximately 3 hours of either the TA’s or my time. Unforeseen circumstances arise, but repeated abuse of the lab makeup policy for your own convenience will not be looked upon favorably, and will be detrimental to your final course grade.

It is university policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in university-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed PRIOR to the absence. If the absence is excused and you have discussed it with me prior to the lab, your grade will be recorded as a 0/0 (does not affect your lab grade) if we are unable to schedule a makeup lab. If the absence is unexcused or you do not notify me prior to lab, your grade will be recorded as a 0/120ish.

Lab Safety and Conduct Policy

Hardhats will be worn at all times that anyone is underneath tree-cover (even if we are on campus). Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for the labs. If you are inappropriately dressed you will not be allowed to attend lab and the lab will be treated as an unexcused absence (see attendance policy above). It is at the discretion of the instructor or teaching assistant what appropriate dress for the field is. Please do not wear sandals, tennis-shoes, sneakers, crocs, flip-flops, slippers, etc. You may also require a jacket or rain gear in the winter and water in fall, as appropriate. If you have a metal clipboard, bring GLOVES if it is cold out. Your lab will meet every week as scheduled. If we are scheduled to go to the field, then we will go, regardless of weather conditions. Come to lab dressed appropriately. Some labs may require crossing creeks or wading in up to chest-deep water, with a greater chance we will be wading during the spring rather than fall semester.

When you are taking field quizzes, you are not allowed to have your master list of species, any other list of species, or any fact sheets out, visible, or easily accessible. This will be enforced as an attempt to cheat. Looking at another student’s quiz sheet or allowing another student to look at your quiz sheet will also be enforced as an attempt to cheat. Cheating will result in a grade of zero on the quiz for all parties involved AND AN ADDITIONAL REDUCTION IN YOUR COURSE GRADE BY ONE FULL LETTER GRADE. A second instance of cheating by a student will result in a grade of F for the entire course. Behavior during lab judged to be detrimental to learning by myself or the TA will not be tolerated, and may result in failure of that week’s quiz, dismissal from the course, or other penalties. No tobacco products of any kind may be used in lab, including vaping.
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

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. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.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, 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/

Responsible Use of Technology

It is expected that all students will 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.

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

Revised 12.03.2019