FOR 587: Graduate Seminar, Spring 2020

Course Details
Instructor: Dr. David Kulhavy Phone: (936) 468-2081
Email: dkulhavy@sfasu.edu Office: 203F Forestry Office Hours: By appointment

Generally I maintain an open door policy. Please feel free to stop by whenever, but if you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by email.

Class: 4:00pm – 5:00pm Wednesday, Forestry 117, or scheduled for outside speakers

Course Description
FOR 587 Seminar. One semester credit hour. Presentation and discussion of scientific work in forestry and spatial science including research proposals, study plans and manuscripts. May be repeated.

Program Learning Outcomes
Forestry 587 is required for all graduate students pursuing a M.S. in forestry. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will demonstrate proficiency in research design relative to their field of study.
2. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of reviewing scientific literature pertinent to their field of study.
3. The student will demonstrate proficiency in basic statistical analysis; relative to their field of study.
4. The student will demonstrate sufficient preparation in their field of study to pursue a professional career.
5. The student will demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills.

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<tr>
<th>M.S. / Ph.D. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
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<td>FOR 587</td>
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A = Advanced

Revised 02.04.2014
Student Learning Outcomes
Upon the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate improved oral communication skills.

2. Coherently and intelligently discuss and evaluate the professional topics presented by outside speakers.

Course Requirements
Oral Presentation: Each graduate student enrolled in the course shall make a 40-minute presentation on a topic approved by the course instructor and the student’s major research advisor. A 250-word abstract outlining the presentation is due two-weeks before the scheduled date of the oral presentation.

After a student gives their oral and poster presentation, critiques will be provided by the faculty and peers designed to assist a student in improving their communication skills.

Grading Policy
Pass (P) or Fail (F) or letter grade. A passing or letter grade will be earned if a student completes the oral presentation and related abstract, attends the seminars and contributes to the discussion. Any unexcused absences shall result in an “F” grade.

Tentative Schedule
The schedule will be developed for the course as speakers are available; graduate students will develop their seminar for the course.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is mandatory, especially during the scheduled presentations. A student missing a class due to a university recognized excused absence must notify the instructor. For more information, see Policy 6.7: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence.pdf
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

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/.

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 D-34.1). 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.