MANAGEMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS
FORS 4351 (Lecture), FORS 4051 (Lab)
Fall 2021
Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture

INSTRUCTORS
Professor:  Mr. John Kidd, PhD candidate
Office: FORS 203A
Office Hours: By appointment Online / Zoom only during*
Mon 9:00 - 9:50 am
Tues 8:30 - 10:00 am
Wed 9:00 - 9:50 am
*Other times may be scheduled in advance
Email: kiddjb@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2014      Fax: 936-468-2489

MEETINGS
Lectures: Monday & Wednesday 10:00 – 10:50pm, FORS 221
Labs: Friday 8:00-10:50am, FORS 208 unless otherwise scheduled
*Other required meetings may be scheduled with advance notice: TBD

TEXTBOOK
Required readings will be provided on Brightspace (SFA’s CMS) and/or in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
3 Credit Hours – 2 hours lecture per week, 3 hours lab per week. Planning, development and maintenance of parks and forest recreation areas. Required field trips. Prerequisite: FORS 3351.

This class exposes students to policy and ethics related to the management of outdoor recreation sites. This class will focus on experiential learning and problem-based techniques, which students may find challenging at times. Through a hands-on learning experience with a park or other recreational area, students will have the opportunity to create a management plan for an outdoor recreation area from start to finish and possibly coordinate volunteers to implement one or two different parts of the management plan.

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, FORS 4351 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas. During and by the end of this course students will be able to:
   A. Understand federal land management policy and organization,
   B. Develop an understanding of conceptual frameworks for recreation resource and visitor use management,
   C. Identify visitor caused impacts to resources and visitor experiences,
   D. Understand and be able to use management tools designed to reduce recreation related impacts and conflicts,
E. Demonstrate an understanding of course material by developing a recreation management plan and a resource impact assessment tool to monitor visitor caused impacts to recreation areas, and
F. Demonstrate leadership management skills.

2. Furthermore, students enrolled in Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas will:
   A. Explore the field of forest recreation in a hands-on, minds-on manner.
   B. Become familiar with forest recreation management, the objective of which is to accomplish a wide array of ecological & social goals.
   C. Be prepared to understand how people interact with and connect to the natural world.

3. The following matrix indicates the level at which FORS 4351 – Management of Outdoor Recreation Areas II – 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>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 2 Forest Resource Measurement</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 3 Forest Resource Management</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 4 Forest Resource Policy, Economics, Administration</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO 5 Oral &amp; Written Communication Skills</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M – Mastery – this 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. FORS 4351 completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.

**COURSE CALENDAR**
See the associated Lecture and Lab Schedules for detailed information.

**GRADING**
The following is the grading scheme for FORS 4351:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Class Participation and Assignments</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student-led Discussions (2 each)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Trails Assessment</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan (see details below)</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>600</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>540-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>480 - 539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>420 - 479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>360 - 419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0 - 359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

ASSIGNMENTS
1. Class Attendance, Participation & Assignments (90 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 (~6 points each week).

2. Campus trails assessment (20 points): Students will complete individually a campus trails initial assessment by walking 3-5 miles of campus trails, considering their purpose, quality, and impacts of management (both positive and negative) on trails. A five minute PowerPoint presentation will be required during the subsequent lab.

3. Student-led discussion (100 points): Students will individually lead two discussions on a class reading, creating questions to lead class discussion. Student will turn a list of their discussion questions at the beginning of the class period they are leading (if you need a copy for yourself, bring two so the instructor has one).

4. Essay (40 points): Students will individually write 3-4 full pages, 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one inch margins with these two thesis statements (choose your own opinion to defend): “Public lands (should / should not) remain public. They (should / should not) be managed based on best-management practices and sound scientific research.” This essay should include a cover page and a separate list of references (these are not included in the 3 pages, so 5 pages total). All references should be cited both in-text and listed at the end of the essay in a Literature Cited section using APA referencing format. This essay may be based on the student’s opinion, but the argument made must be supported with factual, quality, peer-reviewed and/or highly reputable references.

5. Management Plan & Implementation Project (350 points total): Students will, as a group, develop a comprehensive management plan for a park or recreational area, creating a draft for the area management to review and present for public comment. Students will complete both a written plan and will present their plan to the park superintendent at the end of the semester. Students will have the opportunity to visit the park and collect any needed data as well as talk to park interpreters and selected guests. The management plan will be completed in several parts:
   A. Part 1: Summary of Cultural and Natural Resources (50 points). Students will write a brief (2-5 page) summary of the total cultural and natural resources of the recreational area, including at least one map.
   B. Part 2: Data Collection Plan & Memo (50 points).
      i. Students will plan for questions and data collection while on site through creating a comprehensive list of questions they need answers to in order to complete their plan. Students will choose the data they wish to collect onsite versus the data they
could obtain through inquiries, research, or other means. This plan may look different in each group, but should consist of a table of questions and possible answer sources and a separate data collection plan with developed tables or questionnaires.

ii. Students will write a brief (<3 page) memo outlining the data to be collected during the field trip and how this will help in writing the final management plan of the park.

C. Part 3: Management Plan (100 points). Students will write a comprehensive management plan. Details will be provided at a later time as to the required sections. Extra sections are optional or vary by group.

D. Part 4: Project Implementation (50 points). If possible and given permission by necessary authorities, students will begin to implement part of the management plan they are in charge of as recommended by the instructor and any cooperating stakeholders.

E. Part 5: PowerPoint Document and Presentation (60 points). Students will create a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes their management plan & implementation project. Students will follow the sections of their plan and highlight any unique perspectives or ideas from their plan during the presentation. Each member of the group must participate in the presentation given during the last laboratory session of the year (Time TBD).

F. Part 6: Group Evaluation (40 points). Students will evaluate themselves and their group members on participation in the projects.

ATTENDANCE (See University Policy 6.7 below)

Attendance is mandatory. Lecture and labs will meet in the assigned classroom of the Forestry Building, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor. Any lab assignments will be due at the beginning of the lab period. 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).

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
SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

Be personally and socially responsible. SFA administration and your instructors encourage wearing of masks (cloth face coverings) that cover the nose and mouth when indoors in this course, good hygiene, and practice of appropriate physical distancing where possible. Additionally, please consider becoming vaccinated if you have not received the full dosage(s) already. Research scientists and medical doctors have conducted much research with findings in support of these practices as safe and effective tools in reducing transmission and symptoms of COVID-19. For more information about COVID-19 and vaccinations, see the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s resources.
Further, be prepared to adjust to an online format for this course. In the event the instructor or university deem it necessary to increase safety precautions, this course will shift to a hybrid or fully online format without detrimentally impacting the quality of your education. If you are sick or experiencing symptoms of illness, do not come to class - go to the health clinic to be evaluated and received a physician’s note for an excused absence.

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 readings 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 Academic Integrity policy (cheat, plagiarize, etc.) on any exam or assignment will be given a final grade of “F” for the course.

2nd time – Students who violate the above Academic Integrity policy (cheat, plagiarize, etc.) for a 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. If a submitted assignment is suspected of violating the academic integrity policy,
students may be required to furnish as evidence additional data (such as records or files) related to the assignment from personal and/ or public devices or networks used for that assignment.

* The instructor reserves the right to adjust this penalty dependent on individual circumstances; such instances may result in a grade of zero for the exam or assignment. When necessary, decisions 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 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 and the International Society of Arboriculture have established Codes of Ethics to which the respective 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 (for the Society of American Foresters), https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/20190304-Code-of-Ethics.pdf (for the Wildlife Society), and https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/ISA-Ethics-and-Integrity/Code-of-Ethics (for ISA).

**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 private conversations while guests are speaking, 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.

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential:

- **On-campus Resources:**
  - SFA Counseling Service
    - www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
  - Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
  - 936.468.2401

  - SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
    - www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
  - Human Services, Room 202
  - 936.468.1041

- **Crisis Resources:**
  - Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
  - Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
  - Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741