Course Details

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Stovall                Phone: (936) 468-2127
Email: stovalljp@sfasu.edu                 Office: 214 Forestry
Office Hours: By appointment

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.

Course Description

FORS 4363. Forestry Research - 3 semester hours. Transformative experiences in research related to
various forestry topics. Collaboration with faculty and graduate students in a complete research project,
including hypothesis formation, field data collection, laboratory sample processing, data entry and
analysis, and reporting of results and conclusions.

Program Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the BSF
Program Matrix:

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 – FORS 4363 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.
**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Develop a novel research project, including hypotheses and methods (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).
2. Collect, process, analyze, and interpret data (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).
3. Communicate technical material clearly to a variety of audiences by multiple means of written and spoken communication (PLO 5).

**Text and Materials**

There are no required or recommended materials for this course. Readings from the peer-reviewed literature will be necessary.

**Course Requirements**

Students will work with the instructor and graduate students to conduct novel research in a topic of interest. Progress will be reported by the student to the instructor via email periodically. A brief research proposal including research hypotheses and the study design is required. Once field data and lab work are complete, a spreadsheet including all data is required. A final spreadsheet or document including all data analyses, figures, and tables is required. Finally, a manuscript formatted for a peer-reviewed journal including introduction, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections will be required. Each portion of the project will be graded subjectively, but opportunities to redo or revise any individual portion of the research project based on detailed feedback from the instructor will be provided. Expectations for each section will be communicated via discussions or email. Length guidelines will be flexible based on the nature of the research.

**Grading Policy**

Plagiarism in a final draft will result in a grade of 0 in the course. Any plagiarism observed in preliminary drafts may be rectified before resubmission of a final draft.

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>&gt;89.44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Spreadsheet</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>79.45 – 89.44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Analysis Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>69.45 – 79.44%</td>
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<td>Journal Manuscript</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td><strong>COURSE GRADE</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td>&lt;59.45%</td>
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Attendance Policy

Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Attendance will be taken within the first 5 minutes of all classroom and lab sessions. An unexcused lab absence will result in a grade of zero for any assignments missed. Please make every effort to attend all labs. 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. Class session attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences may result in lowered grades on individual assignments.

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/4.1-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 05.20.2021