MANAGEMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS  
FORS 4351 (Lecture), FORS 4051 (Lab)  
Fall 2023  
Arthur Temple College of Forestry & Agriculture  

INSTRUCTORS  
Professor: Mr. John Kidd, PhD candidate  
Office: FORS 203A  
Office Hours: By appointment*  
*Typically open door policy, but please schedule 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>PLO2 Forest Resource Measurement</td>
<td>M</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 – 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 Discussion</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Trails Assessment</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Plan (see details below)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self and Peer Evaluations</td>
<td>80</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 (30 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. An 8 to 10 minute PowerPoint presentation will be required during the subsequent lab.

3. **Student-led discussion (100 points):** Students will individually lead one discussion on a class reading, creating questions and/or thoughtful scenarios to lead class discussion. Students will turn in 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. **Management Plan & Implementation Project (300 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 instructor and possibly also the park superintendent at the end of the semester. Students will have the opportunity to visit the park and collect any needed data. Meetings with park staff and selected guests may also be available. The management plan will be completed in several parts:
   - **A. Summary of Cultural and Natural Resources (50 points).** Students will write a summary of the total cultural and natural resources of the recreational area, including at least one map and multiple images or tables.
   - **B. Data Collection Plan & Memo (50 points).**
     - i. Students will plan for questions and data collection while on site or afterward through creating a comprehensive plan identifying the data needed and appropriate data collection methods. 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 ultimately correlate to the “Methods” section of a technical report. Some parts may 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 how data collected during the field trip and additional research will help in writing the final management plan of the park.
   - **C. Management Plan (150 points).** Students will write a comprehensive management plan. Details will be provided at a later time as to the required sections. Extra sections may be optional or vary by group.
   - **D. PowerPoint Document and Presentation (50 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 (or other pre-scheduled time TBD) to receive a grade for this assignment.

5. **Self and Peer Evaluations 1 & 2 (80 points total).** 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**

**Infectious Diseases**

Be personally and socially responsible. SFA administration and your instructors encourage wearing of PPE that cover the nose and mouth when indoors in this course if you are coughing and/or sneezing, practicing good hygiene, and physical distancing when appropriate. Additionally, please consider becoming vaccinated if you have not received 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 and other communicable diseases. 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, 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 communicable illness, do not come to class - go to a health clinic to be evaluated and receive 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 reading(s) 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, Plagiarism, etc.; see Policy 10.4.1)

The academic integrity process established by the University will be followed. The instructor reserves the right within policy to adjust penalties on case-by-case bases and, as needed, in coordination with the department and university. Generally, the following consequences will be applied, or recommended for application, to students who are determined to have violated this policy in this course:

1st time – For violations of academic integrity (intentionally cheat, plagiarize, etc.) on any exam or assignment, the student(s) will be given, at minimum, a 30% reduction in final grade or a failing grade (“F”) for the course.

2nd time - A second violation in this course will result in the student(s) receiving an “F” as a final course grade and recommendation for further sanctions at the University level. 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.

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 or Agriculture building.

Ethics and Professionalism: All 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 has established a Code of Ethics to which these 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://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/resources/cert_Ethics_CACodeofEthics.pdf (for International Society of Arboriculture), and


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 - someone else probably has that question. If lectures or labs are rushed for time, you may be asked to wait until the end of class to ask your question. On days guest speakers are visiting, this is an opportunity for you to learn more from their perspective; they will have preferences for discussion / questions (e.g., wait until the end or ask as needed). Classroom behavior: See Policy 10.4 below. Please respect the instructors, guest speakers, and your peers by not talking audibly while they are speaking to the class or to you.

Responsible Use of Technology

Use technology responsibly and respectfully during lecture and lab. Generally, this means your phone should not be in your hand at all during class. Students are expected to only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or as appropriate in class. Viewing course-related readings and slides or taking notes on laptops or tablets are appropriate uses during class time. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course during class times may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

Use of artificial intelligence and large language models or similar technologies when working on course assignments is not allowed unless explicit permission is provided by the course instructor. These can be useful tools when utilized wisely and carefully and with appropriate attribution. Abuse of such technology is likely to run against ethics and policy, thus resulting in violations of academic integrity.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES (These are copied from University policy and syllabus guidelines)

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (Policy 4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.
Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/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, 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
[Course instructor’s note: Students with documented disabilities who require course adaptations or accommodations should make an appointment to speak with the professor to discuss accommodations for this course.]

Class Attendance (Policy 6.7; a summary of policy)

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, an accurate record of attendance will be maintained. Read the complete policy at https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/6.7.pdf.

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (Policy 10.4; a summary of policy)

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 https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf.

Smoking, Vaping, and Use of Tobacco Products (Policy 13.21; a summary of policy)

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; a summary of policy)

University Policy 13.9 deals with firearms and the concealed carry policy. Students that concealed carry (licensed or otherwise) that choose to carry firearms 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’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.
If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:**
**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

[www.sfasu.edu/thehub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thehub)
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741