Instructor: Dr. Brian Oswald
Email: boswald@sfasu.edu
Office: FOR 201B
Office Hours: M,W: 9:00-10:00; M,R: 1:00-4:00
In addition, open door policy and by appointment.
Department: Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture
Class Meeting time and place: T 6-9 PM, room 205 room and via zoom

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

**On-campus Resources**

**SFASU Counseling Services**
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices 3rd Floor Rusk Building 936-468-2401

**SFASU 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

**Course Description:** The study of ecology through the investigation of some basic ecological concepts as they apply to natural resource management.

**References:** None Required. Reprints of articles will be used for discussion.

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s):**
The following course learning outcomes have been approved for the Forestry MS Programs in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture:

PLO1: Demonstrate proficiency in basic research design, relative to their field of study;
PLO2: Demonstrate proficiency in the process of reviewing scientific literature pertinent to their field of study;
PLO3: Demonstrate proficiency in basic statistical analysis, relative to their field of study;
PLO4: Demonstrate preparation to pursue a professional career and/or Ph.D. degree in their field of study;
PLO5: Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills.
Student Learning Outcomes:
1: Demonstrate knowledge of forest and range ecology (NA).
2: Demonstrate understanding of the various multiple use management techniques as influenced by ecology across the US and the world (NA).
3: Demonstrate knowledge with forest ecology outside the East Texas/Southeastern United States region (NA).
4: Demonstrate the ability to identify current trends in ecology across the United States (NA).
5: Demonstrate the ability to critically think about ecological issues as well as communicate in both written and oral forms (A, PLO5).

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.

NA- Not applicable.

Course Calendar:  (subject to revision. Exact number of weeks are difficult to list prior to class discussions):
The Plant Community
Discrete vs. Continuum Community Concepts
Climax Community Theories
Classification of Plant Communities
Primary and Secondary Succession
Soil-Vegetation Relationships
Succession Models
Competition
Ecosystem Health

Grading Policy and class attendance:

1 take-home mid-term exam (30% of final grade) Will be due before the drop deadline.
1 annotated bibliography of 20 articles discussed (due last class period of dead week, 40% of grade),
Class participation 30% of final grade

All tests and papers will be turned in as a hard copy and as attachments of an email to me. Make up exams must be turn in within 1 week of excused absence of the test, which will be take-home format. Attendance and attitude will be used on borderline cases. I will make every effort to return tests and term papers within 1 week of the due date. Because I do travel as part of my faculty responsibilities, I may not be able to reach these goals. Since the weight of each assignment is listed above, a student should be able to determine their own performance in the class. Do not expect me do to this for you!
Attendance Policy:
Class attendance is expected except for valid excuses. Students are expected as part of their responsibilities to complete the on-line course evaluation via MySFA.

Academic Integrity
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. As SFA transitions to being part of the UT System, there are changes in how academic dishonesty incidents are handled compared to the past. See https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf. A complete copy of the 2023-2024 Handbook to the Code is found on the D2L site for this class.

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. Cheating or plagiarism may result in at least a “zero” on the assignment in question, and possibly an “F” for the course. This includes texting friends during tests, cutting/pasting lecture material into tests, and using AI generated materials (Chat GPT, etc).

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.

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

Cheating or plagiarism will result in a least a “zero” on the assignment in question, and possibly an “F” for the course. Students are urged to make sure they do their own work, make sure the papers they write use quotes only when necessary, are cited correctly, and most importantly, are in their own words!

**Cell Phones:**
Let’s make it easy- turn them off. If you are an EMT or in a Volunteer Fire Department, you must let me know. Since we know that the clocks in the classrooms are all over the place, I will have my cell phone on silent and I will check the time if needed-no reason for you to do so. If you have the cell phone on and look at it during a test, I will assume you are cheating. If you use your cell phone (even look at it) during class, I will assume you are not interested in the material and will be asked to leave.

**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/.