Instructor:  Dr. Brian Oswald  
Email: boswald@sfasu.edu  
Office: FOR 201B  
Office Hours: via email, cell (936) 645-7990. In addition, open door policy and by appointment. 
Department: Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture  
Class Meeting time and place:  F: 9-110:00 Room 225  

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: An investigation of fire ecology in the United States. Emphasis will be how fire ecology influences natural resource management.  

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):  
The following course learning outcomes have been approved for the Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) degree program:  
PLO1: Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology;  
PLO2: Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;  
PLO3: Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;  
PLO4: Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.  
PLO5: Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.  

Student Learning Outcomes:  
1: Demonstrate an understanding of the ecological concepts and processes upon which natural resource management is based (A, PLO1).
2: Demonstrate the development of a strong ecological base upon which they can establish their own environmental ethic (A, PLO1).
3: Demonstrate the ability to relate current issues/topics in natural resources to basic ecological theory (A, PLO4).
4: 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.

References: There are no required texts for this class. A set of articles will be handed out each week for our discussions for the following week.

Course Requirements:
- 1 take-home mid-term exam (30% of final grade) Will be due before the drop deadline.
- Annotated bibliographies of 30 articles discussed (due last class period of dead week, 30% of grade)
- 2-3 person group project/powerpoint presentation on fire ecology in a different country/continent. I will provide list of options, teams can choose. No replicates. (30% of grade). Presentations will be given during dead week class.
- Class participation 10% of final grade

Course Calendar: (subject to revision):
Weeks 1-3: Basic Fire Ecology Principles
Weeks 4-12: Regional Fire Ecology

Grading Policy:
Make up exams must be completed within 1 week of excused absence of the test. Participation and attitude will be used on borderline cases. I will make every effort to return tests and the bibliography 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. This class requires class participation, so it requires prior reading of the materials. Students will be expected to lead the discussions once the class gets going. There may not be a single right or wrong answer to anything we discuss-how an answer is defended is the critical issue. Since the weight of each assignment is listed, a student should be able to determine their own performance in the class. Do not expect me to do this for you! No late assignments will be accepted. Each student must send me an electronic copy of the assignment on or before the due date, as well as turning in a hard copy.
**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. **Failure to complete this evaluation before the closing of access to the survey, will be result in one letter grade penalty.**

**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](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 a 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).**

Students are urges 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.

**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.

**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).