FORS 3125-001/002: Timber Cruising
Summer 2023 Syllabus

Instructors:
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Mr. Jason Grogan
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(936) 468-5588 (office)

Office hours: open door policy, will depend upon availability/time of day

Class Times: Sunday, May 21 (2:00 PM) – Friday, May 26
(Late afternoon/evening meeting times-will be determined each day when returning from the field)

Class Location: We will meet each morning in Rm 117. Upon return from the field each day we will meet in in computer labs for data analyses and Rm 117 for additional cruise preparations. Field sites throughout East Texas will be visited each day.

Course Description
FORS 3125: Timber Cruising - One semester hour. Study of timber stand estimation methodology and growth and yield modeling. Required field trips. Prerequisites: FORS 1311, 1352, 2305, 2309, 2319, 2340, 2351, and GIS 2324. Students must have an overall grade point average of 2.0 at the end of the fall semester prior to attending field station. Summer only during forestry field station.

Program Learning Outcomes
Forestry 3125 is a forestry core course required of all forestry majors and thus competency is required. A minimum grade of a “C” must be attained or the course will have to be repeated. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, per 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 3125 support 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. Demonstrate proficient and safe application of basic field skills, including compass and pacing, woody plant identification, and the usage of common mensurational equipment (PLO 2, 3, 4).
2. Design a statistically sound timber inventory, map plots or points in a stand, and implement the inventory including all data collection, processing, and analysis (PLO 2, 3, 4, 5).
3. Demonstrate an understanding of forest ecology, including concepts of site productivity, stand density, forest growth, and forest health (PLO 1).
4. Communicate technical material clearly to a variety of audiences using text, tables, and maps (PLO 5).
5. Create solutions to real-world forest management problems by applying higher-order thinking skills to their knowledge of forest inventory (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Text and Materials

- No new textbooks are required. You should have already re-read and reviewed your FORS 2305 Biometrics text and notes.
- Smartphone (one per crew) & waterproof pouch, zip-lock style bag, etc. for protecting device
- Hardhat.
- Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.
- Clip board with paper & pen for taking field notes.
- Scientific calculator capable of performing basic statistical functions.
- Ranger-style compass.
- Cruiser’s vest, backpack, or other way to carry water and equipment in field.

Please bring your handheld calculator every day; carry it with you each time we exit the van. Also bring any handouts provided. Take care not to lose or damage any equipment checked out to your crew. You will pay for lost or damaged items. The most important item to bring with you each day is an alert and attentive mind coupled with a positive attitude. We will have guest lecturers in the field; it is expected that you give these people your undivided attention and respect. It is easy to remember those that do well at field station and those that don't do well and use this as the basis for future career recommendations/job references.

Grading Policy

Overall course grade will be determined by four cruises (400 points, 80%) and peer evaluations (100 points, 20%). All assignments total to 500 points (see course grade breakdown below). Assignments that are not turned in on time will not be accepted, and will result in a zero.

Letter grades will be assigned on a 10-point scale, after grades have been rounded to the nearest point ($\geq 89.45 = A; 89.44 \text{ to } 79.45 = B; 79.44 \text{ to } 69.45 = C; 69.44 \text{ to } 59.45 = D; <59.45 = F$). University guidelines, as outlined in the Student Handbook, will be strictly adhered to with regard to cheating and plagiarism. In addition, the profession of forestry cannot embrace those that do not live by and adhere to the Society of American Foresters’ Code of Ethics. Please review the SAF Code of Ethics. Do your own work. If you are unsure, ask an instructor.
Course Grade Breakdown

<table>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Point sampling cruise (Tues/Wed)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Fixed-radius plot cruise (Tues/Wed)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed-radius plot cruise and regeneration survey (Thurs)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bid sale cruise (Fri)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer evaluations</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Grade</strong></td>
<td>/500 points</td>
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Attendance Policy

**IF YOU MISS A CRUISE OR EVENING CLASS MEETING, THEN YOU WILL LOSE 25% OF YOUR TOTAL GRADE IN ADDITION TO LOSS OF ASSIGNMENT POINTS. IF YOU ARE LATE TO A CLASS MEETING YOU WILL LOSE 10% OF YOUR TOTAL GRADE.**

Be present, ready to leave campus in the morning (without having to go back to your room to pick up your lunch, clipboards, hardhats, etc.). You are expected to be prompt in attending all lectures and meetings. You are expected to board and exit the vans promptly at each stop. You are expected to keep up with the group when visiting stands. You are expected to act professionally whenever we have lectures in the field; this applies to Dr. Weng, Dr. Kidd, Mr. Grogan, or guest speakers.

Class Safety and Conduct Policy

Hardhats will be worn at all times that anyone is underneath tree-cover. Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for class. **IF YOU ARE INAPPROPRIATELY DRESSED YOU WILL NOT LEAVE CAMPUS AND WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT DAY’S ASSIGNMENTS** (see attendance policy above). It is at the discretion of the instructor what appropriate dress for the field is. Please do not wear sandals, tennis-shoes, sneakers, crocs, flip-flops, slippers, etc. You may also require a jacket or rain gear and should always have plenty of drinking water with you. Make sure that you fill your water containers prior to departure each morning. We will go to the field regardless of weather conditions so come to class appropriately dressed. Inappropriate use of wireless communication devices including van radios will be dealt with harshly, including potential negative impacts to your grade.

Social Justice Statement

The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFASU is committed to social justice. We concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. 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.

Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

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Revised 5/15/2023
**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 on any class assignment or exam; 2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; 3) helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: 1) submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; 2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; 3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit. Please read the complete policy at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf).

**Course Grades & Withheld Grades Policy (5.5):**

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, 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/course-grades-5.5.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf)

Policy on excused absences: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-6.7.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-6.7.pdf). Any absences must be supported by documentation (including a date range for absences). Students are responsible for obtaining documentation. The Dean of Students Office can provide assistance with excused absence documentation (submit via: [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/report-it](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/report-it)).

**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/). Please read the complete policy at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-6.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-6.1.pdf)

**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 (defined as wherever instructional activities are occurring) 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.

**Student Mental Health**

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 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](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://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
Tentative Schedule

Sunday: (2:00 PM)
- Welcome (Rm 117)
- Introduction to class rules/policies, grading, roster
- Crew, group, & van assignments
- Students: review tool videos, equations, sampling methods (2305 notes)

Monday: (depart 7:00 AM)
- Review measurement tools, compass and pacing, compass/map navigation
- Fixed-radius plot and prism point measurements review
- Field lecture: inventory for timber procurement discussion

Monday upon return:
- Intro to Tuesday tracts and cruise preparation
- Prepare cruise maps and data collection sheets (fixed-radius plots with Drs. Weng & Kidd-Rm 117/point sampling with Mr. Grogan-computer lab) & check out equipment for Tuesday cruise

Tuesday:
- Point sampling cruise (depart 7:00 AM)/Fixed-radius plot cruise (7:10 AM)

Tuesday upon return:
- Fixed radius plot/Point sampling data analysis
- Stand & Stock table and assignment discussions
- Finish Tuesday Cruise Assignment: Analyze data & write report: methods, stand & stock table, cruise statistics table, and plot location map
- Prepare cruise maps and data collection sheets (fixed-radius plots with Drs. Weng & Kidd-Rm 117/point sampling with Mr. Grogan-computer lab) & check out equipment for Wednesday cruise

Wednesday:
- Tuesday Cruise Assignment (100 pts) due by 6:45 AM
- Point sampling cruise (depart 7:00 AM)/Fixed-radius plot cruise (7:10 AM)

Wednesday upon return:
- Fixed radius plot/Point sampling data analysis
- Stand & Stock table and assignment discussions
- Prep for Thursday cruise-Rm 117 (intro to tract/stands and subplot sampling)
- Finish Wednesday Cruise Assignment: Analyze data & write report: methods, stand/stock table, cruise statistics table, and plot location map

Thursday: (depart 7:00 AM)
- Wednesday Cruise Assignment (100 pts) due by 6:45 AM
- Fixed-radius plot cruise and regeneration survey (Durst Lakes)

Thursday upon return:
- Introduce bid sale cruise
- Prep for bid sale cruise
- Cruise efficiency/design discussion
- Finish Thurs. Cruise Assignment: Analyze data & write report: methods, stand/stock table, cruise statistics table, summary of regeneration (stem/ac by species or species group) and plot location map

Friday: (depart 7:00 AM)
- Thursday Cruise Assignment (100 pts) due by 6:45 AM
- Bid Sale Cruise (Atoy)
- Bid Sale Cruise Assignment: Each crew will prepare timber sale bid letter with a lump-sum dollar value offer (highest bid, without going over, wins).
- Bid opening (Assignment due 100 pts) by 4:00 PM (earlier, if everyone is ready)
- Complete student evaluations (100 pts) (due to D2L dropbox folder by 4pm)

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Revised 5/15/2023