FOR 1311-001; FORS 1011-020
CAREERS AND COMPETENCIES IN FORESTRY
2024 Spring
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

INSTRUCTORS
Professor:  Mr. John Kidd, PhD candidate
Office:  FORS 203A
Office Hours:  By appointment only*
*Other times may be scheduled in advance
Email: kiddjb@sfasu.edu (preferred)
Phone: 936-468-2014  Fax: 936-468-2489

Grad TA:  Ethan Menzel, M.S. Graduate Teaching Assistant
Office:  FORS 234
Office Hours:  Monday 1300 – 1550 (1:00 – 3:50pm)
             Tuesday 1200 – 1350 (12:00 – 1:50pm)
             Thursday 1200 – 1350 (12:00 – 1:50pm)
Email:  menzeler@jacks.sfasu.edu
Phone:  254-495-2420 (emergencies only)

UTA: Undergraduate research assistants and other college peer mentors may be available.

MEETINGS
Lectures:  Mon. & Wed. 8:00 - 8:50am (Forestry Building 205)
Labs:  Wed. 1:00 – 3:50pm (Forestry Building 117)

TEXTBOOK (Required)

Additional readings or study materials will be provided on D2L (Brightspace) and/or in class.

MATERIALS (Required)
Hard-hat; covered clipboard; writing implements; reusable water bottle or container; hand-held calculator; closed-toed shoes or hiking/work boots that reach above the ankle (no low-quarter shoes); ankle-length pants; sleeved shirt; handheld compass with declination (Silva Ranger 2 is recommended). Optional materials include: rainwear; and warm clothing for cold days.

For your safety absolutely NO shorts, Capri pants, athletic pants (e.g., leggings or sweatpants), flip-flops, backless shoes, or sandals will be allowed to be worn in field labs. If you come to a field lab dressed inappropriately you will not be allowed to attend laboratory and your absence will be considered unexcused.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

3 Credit Hours – 2 hours lecture & 3 hours lab per week. Introduction to the multiple use concepts of forestry and basic techniques of forest resource management. Required field trips. Course fee required.

The desired outcome of FORS 1311, Careers and Competencies in Forestry, is to introduce students to an array of forestry topics, from forest history to human interactions with forests’ natural renewable resources to technical knowledge & skills that are used in the practice and philosophy of forestry. Students should also be familiar with a variety of career options available to forestry majors.

Students will enter subsequent Forestry courses with knowledge & skills grounded in the terminology and concepts that are universal to the practice of forestry and that form a base for making renewable natural resource decisions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 FORS 1311. During and by the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency in 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 in forest resource policy, economics, and administration; and
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

Furthermore, students enrolled in Careers and Competencies in Forestry will:

1. Explore the field of Forestry in a hands-on, minds-on manner;
2. Become familiar with renewable resource management, the objective of which is to accomplish a wide array of ecological & social goals;
3. Be prepared to determine if forestry is the profession that they desire to pursue through a clear understanding of forestry related career options; and
4. Be prepared for successful accomplishment of subsequent forestry courses.

The following matrix indicates the level at which FORS 1311 supports the BSF Program Learning Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes Proficiency Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 1311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“B” = “BASIC”: course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with fundamental information, definitions, concepts, and lab activities relative to the expected outcomes.
COURSE CALENDAR
Below is a generalized schedule of topics with order subject to change. See the associated lecture and lab schedules for current detailed information.
Final Exam: Monday May 6, 8:00-10:00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intro to FORS 1311</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Class: MLK holiday / Forest History</td>
<td>Ch 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Forest Policy and Stakeholders/ US Forests Dist.</td>
<td>Ch 3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>For Mgmt by State, Fed / TX Forest Service</td>
<td>Ch 4, 5/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forest Ecology / Site Index, BA</td>
<td>Ch 9/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TX Forestry Association/ Resume Writing</td>
<td>Ch 6/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Forest Mgmt Issues / Silviculture</td>
<td>Ch 10/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>TBD / Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>Ch 15/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>No Class: Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Watersheds and BMPs / USACE and Recreation</td>
<td>Ch 20/ 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Forest Fire Mgmt / TBD: Forest Products &amp; Resources</td>
<td>Ch 16/ 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wildlife Mgmt / TBD: Drones and Insects</td>
<td>Ch 19/ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Weyerhaeuser, Silvic. / TBD: TIMO-REIT</td>
<td>Ch 11/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Range Management / TBD: Special Topics</td>
<td>Ch 21/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Climate / Forestry Internships or Special Topics</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Urban Forestry and Arboriculture / TBD: Review</td>
<td>Ch 22/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADING
FORS 1311/1011 is a Forestry Core course. Students planning to earn a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF), regardless of their major or concentration, must have a grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” in this course in order to graduate with the BSF degree. Students pursuing a minor in Forestry may earn a “D” grade to pass the course.

Common Forestry Core Grade Policy
The faculty of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture unanimously approved a new Forestry Core Course grade policy in effect since August 25, 2008 that states: all students entering the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture for the first time in or after the Fall 2008 semester must earn a grade of “A”, “B”, or “C” in each course in the Common Core of Forestry & in Forestry Field Station in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. The “C or above” policy does not apply to courses taken as part of the student’s particular emphasis or concentration such as Forest Management, Forest Wildlife Management, etc. For major concentration courses a student must earn a passing grade of “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D”.

v. 20240119; this document subject to change
This policy is different from the grade policy of Stephen F. Austin State University which states that a student must earn a grade point average of 2.000 or higher in each of their major, minor (if any), & overall academic work from SFA in order to earn a degree from SFA. If you have questions about this policy please contact Dr. Matthew McBroom, Associate Dean, at mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu or 936-468-2469.

Grading / Point Rubric for FORS 1311:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Material Covered</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Assignments</td>
<td>Classwork, quizzes, homework, etc.</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Mid-term</td>
<td>Lecture, textbooks, handouts</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Final Exam</td>
<td>Comprehensive lecture, texts, handouts</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>Memos, technical reports, etc.</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Exams</td>
<td>Technical skills, lab info</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All points earned for lecture and lab are combined. 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>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>800-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>0-599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment submission and late assignment penalty:** All assignments are due on time to their specified locations. Lecture assignments due after their respective deadlines will be marked as late and will incur a penalty. Late lecture assignments incur a 10% penalty for each 24 hours it is late, including weekend days (no assignments will be picked up on the weekend, so they count as being turned in at 8am on Monday). After 10 calendar days, the assignment grade is zero and submissions after this will not be evaluated. Late (submitted after the lab start time) lab assignments (memos, technical reports, etc.) will generally not be accepted and result in a grade of zero for that assignment. You may not submit a lab report for a lab you do not attend, and there are no make-up labs. Unexcused absences from lab will result in a zero on that assignment. If an excused absence from lab with appropriate documentation occurs, the associated lab grade will be a zero; however, an extra lab assignment grade is built into the grading that can be used in the event of a missed lab or as extra credit. Contact the professor if more than one excused absence from lab occurs. Assignment grades may be appealed no later than 7 calendar days from the return of lab reports, assignments, tests, and quizzes.
Exams

Exams will be administered according to the lecture and lab schedules as part of this syllabus unless announced otherwise by the professor. Make-up exams may be given only upon the professor’s receipt of a “faculty notification” - a university-approved, documented absence excuse provided by the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students with prior knowledge of exam conflicts due to university-approved excuses must schedule to take a make-up exam with the professor at least one week prior to the original exam date. A student missing an exam due to circumstances outside of their control who wishes to make up an exam must consult with the professor and complete the make-up exam within 7 calendar days after they return to school; after 7 calendar days the student will receive a “0” for that exam. Make-up exams for unexcused absences will not be given and will be counted as “0” for that exam.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS (See University Policy 6.7 below)

Attendance is mandatory for lecture and lab. Arrive to lecture and lab classes on time. Do not leave lab before it ends or without instructor permission; if you must leave lab for emergencies, notify the instructor beforehand. If late entries to class become disruptive, students may be restricted from entering class late (i.e., the door will be locked shut). Labs will meet in the assigned classroom of the Forestry Building, unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor. Absences from lab will result in a grade of zero for any assignments or exams due for the lab missed; you may not submit lab assignments for labs you miss, and no make-up opportunities for unexcused absences.

If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, complete the University’s process for notification of absences and provide any documentation. Also let the course instructor know if your absence may be considered as excused. Absences will be considered as excused at the discretion of the course instructor, and if the absence notification process through SFA’s Student Outreach and Support office has been completed.

Root Camp is mandatory! It will be Saturday February 10, 8am-6pm. Do not miss Root Camp. See the professor now if you are going to miss for a university approved reason / absence.

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 experience symptoms associated with infectious diseases, 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
For violations of academic integrity (intentionally cheat, plagiarize, etc.) on any gradable 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 generally 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 or conversing on your phone (texting or otherwise) 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, 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 [Course instructor’s note: 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. If you have extra time as an accommodation and intend to use it for exams, discuss this with the instructor and likely plan to schedule this with Disability Services for an exam room.]

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
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
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
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