Course Details

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Stovall
Email: stovalljp@sfasu.edu
Office: 214 Forestry
Office Hours: By appointment

Generally I maintain an open door policy, and keep a schedule posted by my door. My desk is in the back room, so come on in if the door is open. Please feel free to stop by my office whenever. If you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by email. I check email frequently and reply as soon as possible, within 24 hours M - F at most.

Class: 8:00am – 8:50am Tuesday and Thursday, Forestry Building 222
Lab: 2:00pm – 4:50pm Thursday, Forestry Building 221

Course Description

FORS 5375. Advanced Silviculture - 3 semester hours, 2 hours lecture and 3 hours lab per week. Study of silvicultural systems, regeneration and intermediate management from ecologic and economic viewpoints. Required field trips. Prerequisites: Instructor permission.

Program Learning Outcomes

(This is not a General education Course): Forestry 5375 is one of the courses available to all Forestry MS students. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the MS Forestry Program Matrix:

1. The student will demonstrate proficiency in research design, relative to their field of study.
2. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of reviewing scientific literature pertinent to their field of study.
3. The student will demonstrate proficiency in basic statistical analysis; relative to their field of study.
4. The student will demonstrate sufficient preparation in their field of study to pursue a professional career.
5. The student will demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills.

M.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>PLO 1 Proficiency in Research Design</th>
<th>PLO2 Scientific Literature Review</th>
<th>PLO3 Proficiency in Basic Statistical Analysis</th>
<th>PLO4 Preparation for Pursuit in a Professional Career</th>
<th>PLO5 Competency in Oral and Written Communication Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 5375</td>
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A – Advanced – FORS 5375 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.
Student Learning Outcomes
Upon the completion of this course, successful students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of stand dynamics, including concepts of stand structure, function, establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality (PLO 1).

2. Explain the ecological underpinnings and technical considerations for common regeneration, establishment, and intermediate treatments that comprise modern silvicultural systems (PLO 1, 2).

3. Develop data-driven, time- and space-bounded prescriptions for forest stands considering ecological, economic, and societal aspects of management decisions in an ethical context (PLO 1,2,3,4,5).

4. Communicate technical material clearly to a variety of audiences using text, tables, graphs, and maps, including logical rationale supporting management decisions (PLO 5).

5. Create solutions to real-world forest management challenges by applying higher-order thinking skills to their knowledge of silviculture (PLO 1,2,3,4,5).

Text and Materials
- **Recommended**: Eyre. *Forest Cover Types of the US and Canada* (SAF 1980)
- A hard hat (per college policy).
- Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.
- A clip board for taking notes in the field.
- A calculator.

Course Website
Reading quizzes, lectures, course documents, and grades will all be available on the silviculture course website, which can be found at: www.SFAsilviculture.com.

Course Requirements
**Quizzes**: Quizzes will typically be given at the beginning (8:00 am) of regularly scheduled lecture times. On average there will be one quiz per week, but it will vary between Tuesday and Thursday lecture sessions. Some weeks there may be two quizzes, and some weeks there may be no quizzes. Quizzes will be closed book and note, timed, and an individual effort. Following the quiz, we will go over any questions you might have. Quizzes will be graded and returned to you by the next class session.

Quizzes will follow a similar format each week:
- Two questions will cover terminology from the Silviculture Terminology List. Definitions do not need to be verbatim, but they do need to contain all the major components of the definition. The exception to this rule is the definition of the term ‘silviculture’, which must be verbatim.
- One short answer question will cover concepts from previous lectures, typically focusing on more recent material. However, by its nature the course is cumulative.
- One short answer question will cover concepts from the assigned readings for that day. See the course schedule; if a quiz is given, the reading question will be drawn from the reading listed on that same line for that day. This question will not require you to memorize every detail of the readings, but will focus on general concepts of the reading that you will not be able to guess if you have not completed the reading.
- One question will cover quantitative concepts (math!) we are learning, and will be cumulative throughout the course. Example problems are available on the course website. Be sure to bring a calculator to each quiz.
- One bonus question from any one of the above categories.

Each question is worth two points, meaning each quiz is worth 10 points, but there are 12 possible points. Partial credit may be awarded on each question. If you miss a quiz due to an excused absence or tardiness which you have informed me of prior to class, your grade will be recorded as an E for excused, which will not affect your overall course grade. If you miss a quiz due to an unexcused absence, or are late to class without prior approval, you will not be able to take the quiz and will earn a 0. No makeup quizzes will be given, and no quizzes will be dropped. During the final exam period a ‘big quiz’ will be given worth 4 individual quizzes. No reading questions will be included on the ‘big quiz’.

If you require additional time or other accommodations, please work with disability services and the instructor at the beginning of the semester. This may require you to come in early or before class to take quizzes, but I will be available as needed.

**Lab Exercises:** Lab exercises will mostly entail prescription writing, and will be completed in the field during the lab period. Some exercises will be completed individually, while some will be completed in groups. **Bring your useful handouts packet and a calculator to each lab.** Hardhats will be worn at all times that you are beneath tree-cover. Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for the labs. Some labs on bottomland sites may require wading. If you are inappropriately dressed you will be sent home and will receive a zero for that lab’s assignments (see attendance policy below). 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 in the winter and drinking water during warm weather, as appropriate. Your lab will meet every week as scheduled. If we are scheduled to go to the field, then we will go, regardless of weather conditions. Come to lab appropriately dressed. Tobacco products and vaping are not permitted in lab.

**Research Paper:** By the fourth class day student and instructor will agree on a topic that 1) focuses on silviculture, 2) is relevant in some way to the student’s dissertation research topic, and 3) is deemed by the instructor to have sufficient literature available to ensure the student’s success. Further details will be given in the research paper assignment. Papers are due no later than the beginning of the final lecture session.

**Grading Policy**

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COURSE GRADE</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>Percent Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;89.44%</td>
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<td>89.44 – 79.45%</td>
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<td>79.44 – 69.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>69.44 – 59.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;59.45%</td>
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Revised 01.07.2022
Grades will be made available on the course website throughout the semester. Final grades or individual assignments may be curved if deemed appropriate by the instructor. Applying a curve will not result in the lowering of any student’s grade. Additionally, bonus opportunities are offered to the entire class and will be evaluated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. A list of bonus opportunities is available on the course website. Each bonus point is worth 0.2 points on one quiz, thus 50 bonus points is worth a 10/10 on a quiz. It is strongly recommended that all students complete as many bonus opportunities as possible to improve their understanding of silviculture. Bonuses may be submitted any time during the semester, but no later than the beginning of the final regularly scheduled lecture period. A grade of 0 will be given to all involved parties on any lab or quiz on which cheating occurs. A second instance of any type of involvement in cheating by any individual will result in an F in the course.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Attendance will be taken within the first 5 minutes of all classroom and lab sessions. An unexcused lab absence will result in a grade of zero for any assignments missed. Please make every effort to attend all labs. It is university policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies and student participation in university-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed prior to the absence. Class session attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences may result in lowered grades on individual assignments.

Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)
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. 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/4.1_student-academic-dishonesty.pdf

Course 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 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. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.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 in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

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 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

Revised 01.07.2022
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. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf