FORS 3125-001/002: Timber Cruising
Summer 2024 Syllabus

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

Class Times:  Sunday, May 26 (2:00 PM) – Friday, May 31
(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. Summer only during forestry field station. Prerequisites:
FORS 1311, 1352, 2305, 2309, 2319, 2340, 2351, and GIS 2324.

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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<tr>
<th>B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels</th>
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<td>FORS 3125</td>
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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).

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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 a 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 (≥89.45 = A; 89.44 to 79.45 = B; 79.44 to 69.45 = C; 69.44 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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Fixed-radius plot cruise (Tues/Wed)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed-radius plot cruise and regeneration survey (Thurs)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bid sale cruise (Fri)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer evaluations</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>/500 points</strong></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.**

You are expected to attend all scheduled meetings and participate in a manner that is respectful to each other, instructors, and landowners. Attendance is required to all lectures and field exercises. Policy on class attendance and excused absences: [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-102.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-102.pdf). Crew members should also hold each other accountable for designated duties & responsibilities. Notify instructors and the Dean of Students Office (submit via: [https://www.sfasu.edu/thehub/sos/notification-request](https://www.sfasu.edu/thehub/sos/notification-request) if an unusual circumstance arises.

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.

### Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity ([Policy 04-106](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-106.pdf)) 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. **Use of AI-technologies (ChatGPT, etc.) will be considered as cheating. All text submitted is subject to scanning via Turnitin.com/other platforms to ensure authenticity of all work.**

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.

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.

**Course Grades: Withheld Policy (02-206)**

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:

[https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf)
**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (04-101)**

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/ . Please read the complete policy at: https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-101.pdf

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

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 Counseling Service www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
- Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
  - 936.468.2401

- SFA 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
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-41

**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. 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.
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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