FORS 5176 Advanced Graduate Studies – Business of Public Lands
Summer 2024

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Description:
This course explores the business and stakeholders of public lands. This particular semester course requires immersion in Yellowstone National Park to understand the natural, cultural, and economic resources and how they impact each other while meeting the mission of national parks and demands of visitation.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to -

- Define the extent of natural, cultural, and economic resources contained within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem;
- Discuss the business aspects and concepts involved with eco and adventure tourism in Yellowstone and other public lands;
- Identify the other businesses involved, such as ranchers and outfitters;
- List and discuss the major issues affecting the decision-making of park management.

Grading:
As a field graduate level class, each student must complete the following in order to be considered successful and pass with an A:

1. Keep a journal prior to and during the field experience. This should include questions you may have, information you want to explore before and during the trip, and any other articles, discussions, and information you would like to include.
2. Participate fully in Yellowstone Forever program at Yellowstone National Park.
3. Record a short post-trip video to talk about what you learned, how you were impacted, and what may be next steps on continued learning on the topics and issues of Yellowstone. Be sure and include how you may use this experience and knowledge in your projected field of employment.
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
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/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**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/).
**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.

**PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP BEHAVIOR:** This course is specifically designed to help you become a professional and leader in your field. Readings, activities and assignments are all designed to that purpose. You will be expected to behave as and to be treated as professionals.

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**For Administrative Purposes:**

**Program Learning Outcomes**

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 preparation to pursue a professional career and/or Ph.D. degree in subject.
5. The student will demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills.
6. The student will demonstrate competency in comprehensive interpretive planning and design of interpretive products.
Please list each course in the program and indicate how it supports the Program Learning Outcomes for the identified program.

### MSRC Forestry Program Learning Outcomes – Non-Thesis

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**Definition of Rating Categories:**

1. **N/A** – Not Applicable – course does not support the Program Learning Outcome.
2. **B** – Basic – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with fundamental information, definitions, concepts, and lab activities relative to the expected outcomes.
3. **I** – Intermediate – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with topic-specific information, concepts, applications, and lab activities that increase the students’ skills in making tactical implementation decisions relative to the expected outcomes.
4. **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.
5. **M** – Mastery – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with opportunities to independently apply tactical and strategic planning skills to successfully accomplish real-world, non-academic management objectives. Completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.