FOR 325-001: Timber Cruising, Summer I 2015

Course Details

Instructors:
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Office hours for the week of field station will be when we are with you.

Class Times: Sunday evening, May 24 – Friday, May 29

Class Location: We will meet each morning and evening in Room 221.
Field sites throughout East Texas will be visited each day.

Course Description

FOR 325: Timber Cruising - One semester hour. Study of timber stand estimation. Required field trips. Prerequisite: FOR 111, 152, 205, 209, 219, 240, 251 and GIS 224. Students must have an overall grade point average of 2.0 at the end of the fall semester prior to attending field station. Course fee required. Summer only at forestry field station.

Program Learning Outcomes

Forestry 325 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
B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels

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A – Advanced – FOR 325 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 Forestry 205 Biometrics text and notes.
- A hard hat.
- Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.
- A clip board with paper & pen for taking notes in the field.
- A scientific calculator capable of performing basic statistical functions.
- A Ranger-style compass.
- An engineer’s scale, protractor, and triangle for cruise design.

Please bring your handheld calculator every day; carry it with you each time we exit the van. Also bring any handouts you have from the on-campus classes - you may or may not be allowed to use these on a case-by-case basis. 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.

Course Requirements

Three cruises will be conducted during this course. These will have relatively high point values. Several minor exercises will also be given. Although each of these will have a relatively low point value, in combination, they will constitute an important part of your grade. You will also have a field final on Friday.
Grading Policy
Each cruise will be worth 50 points. The minor exercises will total to 50 points. The field final will be worth 100 points. All the exercises and the final combine for a total of 300 points. We will not accept assignments that are not turned in on time. Professionals are expected to meet scheduled deadlines.

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.

Attendance Policy
Class will begin each morning promptly at 7:30 AM unless otherwise stated. The evening class will begin at 6:30 PM unless otherwise stated. If you miss a daytime class without prior approval of an excused absence, then you will receive a 20% reduction of your total course grade. If you attend the daytime class but miss an evening class without prior approval of an excused absence, then you will receive a 10% reduction of your total course grade. If you arrive after the vans have departed, you may not meet us in the field in your personal vehicle. Do not attempt to do so, as this violates University policy and you have already received the point deduction. Be ready in the morning to leave the classroom because there will be no opportunity to return to your residence to get your lunch, clipboards, hard hats, 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 when either Dr. Coble or Mr. Grogan are speaking and applies if we have a guest speaker.

Class Safety and Conduct Policy
Hardhats will be worn at all times that anyone is underneath tree-cover. Appropriate clothing, including pants, boots, and hardhat, 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. You must wear boots. 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. Tobacco use is prohibited during daytime and evening class activities.

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.
### Tentative Schedule for Week 2

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| **Sunday, May 24** | There will be an evening meeting to go over the syllabus/agenda for the week and review the rules you must adhere to for the duration of the class.  
6:30 PM Crew assignments for next day. |
| **Monday, May 25** | Review of instrument use, data collection, development of stand and stock tables, summary tables, and cruise statistics tables as needed. There will also be a field exercise on compass and pacing as well as pole inventory.  
6:30 PM Prepare for the line-plot cruise. Crew assignments for next day. |
| **Tuesday, May 26** | **Line-plot inventory and stand mapping.** This cruise will take all day. Each crew will submit a combined crew report consisting of cover sheet, stand/stock tables, summary table, cruise statistics table, stand map, and the completed tally sheets. Additionally, there will be a check cruise of some of your plots and your crew will be graded on the accuracy of your plot data. Crew reports are due at 7:30 AM on the following morning.  
6:30 PM Prepare for the line-point cruise. Crew assignments for the next day. Work on crew reports for line-plot cruise. |
| **Wednesday, May 27** | **Line-point sample inventory and stand mapping.** This cruise will take all day. Each crew will submit a combined crew report consisting of cover sheet, stand/stock tables, summary table, cruise statistics table, stand map, and the completed tally sheets. Additionally, there will be a check cruise of some of your points and your crew will be graded on the accuracy of your point data. Crew reports are due at 7:30 AM on the following morning.  
7:30 AM Line-plot cruise report due.  
6:30 PM Prepare for the bid sale cruise. Crew assignments for the next day. Work on crew reports for line-point cruise. |
| **Thursday, May 28** | **Bid Sale Cruise.** Each crew will cruise a tract of timber for sale. Each crew will submit their estimate of the total volume/weight and value. Grades will be based on accuracy and competitiveness of their bid. Bids and crew reports are due at 7:30 AM on the following morning.  
7:30 AM Line-point cruise report due.  
6:30 PM Review for field final. |
| **Friday, May 29** | **Field final.** Each student will participate in a field final. This final evaluates the individual student’s ability to use forest inventory equipment and techniques.  
7:30 AM Bid sale cruise report due. |
**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/)

**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.

Instructors: Dr. Dean Coble and Mr. Jason Grogan

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