

**University of Florida
School of Forest Resources & Conservation**

**FOR 2662
FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE
3 credits**

Fall 2011

Tuesdays, Period 7 (1:55-2:45), Weimer Hall 1094

Thursdays, Periods 7-8 (1:55-3:50), Leigh Hall 0242

<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (Sakai System)

Course Description: This course will examine society's interaction with forests. It will focus on important forest issues, which affect how individuals, communities, and institutions make decisions about forest resources. Each issue will be discussed using relevant case studies as a backdrop. Topics include: values that inform our perception and use of forests, clearcutting, prescribed fire, tree genetics, forest health and forest water resources. Each of these topics will be discussed using three fundamental concepts as a framework:

- **Human perceptions and values of forests**
- **Functions of forest ecosystems**
- **Management and use of forests**

Students will be expected to understand key issues discussed and understand and analyze the major social and ecological variables that affect each issue. Specifically, students will:

- Understand the dynamic nature of forest ecosystems and that complex relationships exist between stakeholders, their values, and their perceptions of forests,
- Be able to interpret and analyze environmental issues related to forests and forest management,
- Develop well-reasoned judgments about what to do or believe when reading popular literature on forest management, values and ecosystem functions, and
- Communicate effectively with others in determining solutions to environmental issues.

Lead Instructor

Taylor Stein, Assoc Professor of Ecotourism

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Aaron Trulock

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Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:30

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Instructor Team

Gary Peter, Professor of Forest Genomics

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Michael Bannister, Assistant Director for the Center for Subtropical Agroforestry

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John Davis, Professor of Forest Biotechnology

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Jason Smith, Assistant Professor of Forest Pathology

– (352) 846-0843, *jasons@ufl.edu*

Course Readings

Course readings are available online through the UF Library Online Reserve system (<https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>) or the course website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>).

Course Tasks

Exams/Final Assignment

In order for the instructors to assess your progress during their section of the course, you will complete an exam/assignment that covers the information you were provided during that section. These exams/assignments will take a variety of forms (e.g., in-class exam to out-of-class essay), and they will all be worth 10 points each.

Assignments

To give you a thorough understanding and appreciation for the issues discussed in class, you will be required to complete five assignments throughout the semester – each worth six points each. They will include both in-class and out-of-class written assignments. These exercises will test your awareness of the information about a specific issue, as well as your ability to think about that issue, and apply that information to current situations. Each exercise will be discussed in detail before it is due.

You will be asked to submit most of your written assignments as in class or as email attachments. Please be sure to follow the instructor's instructions on when and how to turn in assignments. Late assignments will not be excused and will result in a **standard deduction of 1 point for every 24 hours the assignment is late.**

Participation

This class moves quickly and builds on each day's activities - attendance is crucial. You must participate in all aspects of this course to get full credit. Specifically, participation will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Class attendance,
2. Class conduct (e.g., arriving on time, contributing to class discussions, and no disruptive behavior),
3. Completion of in-class exercises, and
4. Observed participation in group activities.

Students will also be expected to take part in course discussion. Although we don't expect all students to speak all the time, you will have the opportunity to provide input verbally and written. Occasionally, instructors might ask you to submit written comments based on lectures (in-class or email). Failure to submit these written comments will result in points deducted from your participation score.

Finally, repeatedly coming to class late and disrupting class will result in points deducted from your participation score.

Course Wrap-up

The final three classes will be used to synthesize and review the class. You will be expected to complete a short assignment and participate in both class sessions to earn full points.

Course Grading

Projects/Exams	Points	Final Points	Grade
Exams/Final Assignments (5 for 10 points each)	50	93.4 – 100	A
Writing Assignments (5 for 5 points each)	30	90.0 – 93.3	A-
Participation	5	86.7 – 89.9	B+
Course Wrap-up	20	83.4 – 86.6	B
Total	100	80.0 – 83.3	B-
		76.7 – 79.9	C+
		73.4 – 76.6	C
		70.0 – 73.3	C-
		66.7 – 69.9	D+
		63.4 – 66.6	D
		60.0 – 63.3	D-
		Less than 60%	E (Fail)

Special Notes

1. Individuals who miss classes are expected to make arrangements with the professor(s) teaching that section of the class and other students in the class to get lecture materials.
2. Class participation is essential, and your opinion is valued no matter which perspective you come from. This class will teach you how to form well-reasoned opinions; in other words, our job is to teach you how, not what, to think.
3. Turn off cell phones and only use laptops for taking notes. E-mailing or surfing websites during class is not permitted. Instructors will require all laptops to be closed if students are found misusing laptops during class.
4. **Remember, do not plagiarize!** When you use information from a source, tell us where you got that information. Copying information from other documents (whether they are websites, newspaper articles, journal articles, or anything) is plagiarism and you will fail the course if caught plagiarizing.

Other Information

Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include

- I. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- II. Student Mental Health, Student Health Career Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- III. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; and
- IV. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

UF Computer Software Usage

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Fall 2011 Class Schedule

Tuesdays, Period 7 (1:55-2:45), Weimer Hall 1094
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Week	Day	Topic
1	August 23 25	Introduction to Course and Instructors Forests and People - Taylor Stein
2	30 Sept. 1	
3	6 8	
4	13 15	Forest Management – Gary Peter
5	20 22	
	Saturday September 24	Field Trip: Austin Cary Memorial Forest
6	27 29	
7	Oct. 4 6	Human Genetics, Tree Genetics – John Davis
8	11 13	
9	18 20	Forest Health – Jason Smith
10	25 27	
11	Nov. 1 3	
12	8 10	Agroforestry & Agroforestry Development Projects in Haiti – Michael Bannister
13	15 17	
14	22 24	No Class
	Thanksgiving	
15	29 Dec. 1 6	Course Synthesis Project Course Synthesis Project Course Synthesis Project