

# Introductory Forestry (Online Course)

AGN 143

Fall 2016

Missouri State University

## Instructor:

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00pm-4:00pm, Fridays 10:00am - noon and by appointment

## Course Catalog Description:

In addition to traditional topics of species identification, biology and timber management, this course examines the sociological, environmental, political and industrial influences on domestic and international management of forest resources. 3(3-0) F,S

## Course Content:

The purpose of this course is to instruct undergraduate students in the history of forestry, forest vegetation dynamics, forest management, and the relationship between forests and humans. As such, this course will offer students a strong introduction to key subjects forming the basis of traditional and modern forestry such as dendrology, silviculture, forest measurements, site quality, and major considerations and techniques for contemporary forest management.

## Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and discuss major historical drivers behind forestry in the U.S.
- Understand the basic principles of forest ecology and structure
- Perform basic forest measurements and sampling
- Understand concepts of forest stand dynamics, particularly with regard to site quality
- Understand concepts of silviculture as it pertains to reproduction, intermediate management and wildlife habitat management
- Know how to identify major Missouri tree species and where they are likely to exist.
- Understand Best Management Practices for forestry operations and how they can be applied.

## Suggested Readings (this course has no required text book):

Miller, C., and R. Staebler. (1999). *The Greatest Good: 100 Years of Forestry in America*, Society of American Foresters, Bethesda, MD.

Burton, D. (2012). *Introduction to Forestry Science – Third Edition*, Delmar Cengage Learning, Clifton Park, NY.

Davis, L., Johnson, K., Bettinger, P., and T. Howard. (2001). *Forest Management – Fourth Edition*, McGraw Hill, New York, NY.

- Reading assignments will also include handouts and web-based materials. These sources will be identified during class, as well as on the course's Blackboard site.

**Blackboard:**

The course's Blackboard site can be found at <http://courses.missouristate.edu/>

This site will be used to post course announcements, handouts, and grades. Supplemental course materials may also be posted to the Blackboard site. *Students will be responsible to check the Blackboard site regularly and print needed materials for class.*

**Attendance:**

Students are expected to attend **ALL** classes. Class attendance will be taken periodically through a short in-class quiz. Appropriate classroom etiquette and behavior is not just expected, it is required. The latter will be strictly enforced during regular lectures and guest speaker presentations.

**Quizzes:**

In-class quizzes may be announced ahead of time or be unannounced "pop" quizzes.

- Missed quizzes may not be made-up due to a student being absent, late to class, or leave early from class. Only under extraordinary circumstances, the student may be given a make-up quiz at the discretion of the instructor **IF** the instructor was notified prior to the missed quiz.
- At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will be dropped and not calculated into the final course grade. It is encouraged that students reserve the lowest quiz score for an emergency absence (i.e. due to illness, etc.).

**Assignments/Quizzes:**

There will be at least 5 homework assignments in this class. All assignments will be pre-announced no later than the lecture period directly preceding the one in which the homework will be assigned. Each homework assignment/quiz will be worth 30 points. Assignments must be turned in to me by email no later than **5:00 pm** on the due date or it will be considered a late submission. Due dates/times for quizzes will be at the discretion of the instructor, but will be reasonable.

**Late Homework Policy:**

Students are expected to submit **ALL** homework assignments within the deadline indicated by me and printed clearly on the cover page of each assignment. Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized 50% of the assessed grade. Students are strongly encouraged to complete assignments on time, as a good overall homework grade may help to offset one low exam score. Regardless of the grade received, all assignments must be turned in to pass the course.

**Exams:**

After each unit of material, a 100 point exam will be given on Blackboard. These exams will be announced in class at least one week prior to the exam date. A 100 point comprehensive final exam will be given during finals week and will be based on materials covered over the entire semester.

- Missed exams may not be made-up. Only under extraordinary circumstances, the student may be given a make-up exam at the discretion of the instructor **IF** the instructor was notified prior to the missed exam.

**Field Trips (optional for online students):**

This course will include three optional field trips to the Woodlands (a forest owned by MSU). Each field trip will last approximately four hours (from 8:00 am to noon, or as best suits our needs) and will therefore take place on Saturdays (see tentative class schedule). Attendance at the field trips is optional, but students will receive 10 extra credit points for attending each one. These field trips can be a valuable learning experience in this class, as they provide practical examples in a field setting for concepts learned in the classroom.

**Grading Policy:**

Faculty have the choice to utilize either the standard grade policy or the plus/minus grading option but are required to indicate their grading scale on their syllabus. The University's plus/minus grading system can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/grades.html>

**Grading Point System:**

8 lecture quizzes @ 10 pts each (lowest score dropped)	80 pts*
5 Homework Assignments/Quizzes @ 30 pts each (lowest score dropped)	150 pts*
4 Unit exams @ 100 pts each	400 pts
Final exam	100 pts
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>710 pts*</b>

\*total points may vary

Grading scale: based on % of total points earned

Grade	Plus (+)	Straight	Minus (-)
<b>A</b>		93-100	90-92
<b>B</b>	87-89	83-86	80-82
<b>C</b>	77-79	73-76	70-72
<b>D</b>	67-69	60-66	
<b>F</b>		59 and below	

This scale will not be raised and the instructor reserves the right to reduce the ranges at the end of the semester.

**Instructor's expectation regarding proper email structure and class etiquette:**

Students accustomed to text messaging, tweeting, and chatting in online sites may develop poor writing habits that are often transferred into writing emails. Such writing is unprofessional and should not be sent to instructors, administrators, and potential employers. Listed below are several points that students should consider when constructing an email message. *The Instructor reserves the right not to respond to student emails not meeting these guidelines.*

- (1) Use a meaningful subject title.
- (2) Use proper structure and layout for emails, similar to what would be used when writing a letter. *Always start with the recipient's name* (e.g. Dr. Goerndt). Do not start an email saying "Hey" or simply by asking a question.
- (3) Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- (4) Do not write in CAPITAL letters.
- (5) Place a blank line between paragraphs.
- (6) Do not use abbreviations such as "LOL" or "BTW".
- (7) Read the email and run spellchecker before you send it.

**Official Cell Phone Use Policy (N/A for online students):**

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs,

or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

\*\*\*\*Electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops will not be permitted to be used in any way during lecture quizzes and exams. Calculators may be used for quizzes and exams.\*\*\*\*

### **Instructor's Cell Phone Use Policy (N/A for online students):**

Simply put, I do not want to see any smart phones or cell phones in this class. When class begins, they need to be put away, meaning that they need to be put in your pocket or in your bag and not taken out again until class is over. Exceptions are contingent upon the extenuating circumstances outlined in the Official Cell Phone Use Policy described in the previous paragraph. While I will typically not make a huge scene when I see someone looking at a smartphone during lecture, I will take note of who you are and 10 points will be deducted from your overall class grade for each infraction. Looking at or otherwise using a smartphone or similar device during a guest lecture will result in a 50 point penalty to your overall class grade.

### **Calculators:**

At some point in this course, the use of calculators will become necessary for quizzes, exams, and homework assignments.

### **William H. Darr School of Agriculture's Goals and Expectations:**

As mentors and teachers committed to providing a high quality learning experience that prepares students for successful careers and fulfilling lives, we have the expectation of students to exhibit ethical behavior, a teachable attitude, and respect to be demonstrated in the classroom and beyond.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. Students are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures* and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.
- Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to submitting exams, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy:**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can

also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance website at <http://www.missouristate.edu/equity>.

**Disability Accommodation:**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Carrington Hall, Room 302, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), [www.missouristate.edu/disability](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc>.

**Religious Accommodation:**

The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a Request for Religious Accommodation Form to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course.

**Emergency Response Statement:**

At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

**Statement of Attendance Policy:**

Instructors must provide students with a written statement of the specific attendance policy for that class. The instructor has the responsibility to determine specific attendance policies for each course taught, including the role that attendance plays in the calculation of final grades and the extent to which work missed due to non-attendance can be made up. The University encourages instructors not to make attendance a disproportionately weighted component of the final grade, and also expects instructors to be reasonable in accommodating students whose absence from class resulted from: 1) participation in University-sanctioned activities and programs; 2) personal illness; or 3) family and/or other compelling circumstances. The University's attendance policy can be found at <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/attendan.html>.

**Dropping a class**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be

financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520. See Academic Calendars ([www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html)) for deadlines.

**Course Topics and Tentative Schedule:**

(Subject to change during the progression of the semester. Changes will be announced in class.)

Week	Date	Topics	Notes	Events
1	08/22-08/26	Introduction & History of Forestry in U.S.		
2	08/29-09/02	Forest Ecology - Structure & Composition		
3	09/05-09/09	Forest Ecology - Function	<b>No Class 09/05</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
4	09/12-09/16	Dendrology of Major Tree Species		
5	09/19-09/23	Forest Measurements & Sampling	<b>Ag Career Fair 09/21</b>	<b>Field Trip</b>
6	09/26-09/30	Forest Measurements & Sampling		
7	10/03-10/07	Silviculture: Forest Stand Dynamics		<b>Exam 2</b>
8	10/10-10/14	Silviculture: Reproduction		
9	10/17-10/21	Silviculture: Intermediate Management		<b>Field Trip</b>
10	10/24-10/28	Wildlife Habitat Management		
11	10/31-11/04	Agroforestry & Urban Forestry		<b>Exam 3</b>
12	11/07-11/11	Forest Timber and Non-timber Products		
13	11/14-11/18	Introduction to Wood Science		<b>Field Trip</b>
14	11/21-11/25	<b>Thanksgiving Break - No Class</b>		
15	11/28-12/02	Forest Renewable Resource Policies		<b>Exam 4</b>
16	12/05-12/09	Review for Final		
17	12/12-12/16	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>		