

# RGSC/HORT 302V Online

## *Forestry and Society*

Fall, 2021

### Instructor Information

Name: Rachel Gioannini

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Email: [rachelgi@nmsu.edu](mailto:rachelgi@nmsu.edu) Emailing through Canvas is preferred!

Phone: 575-646-3638

Office Hours: T 1-2pm, F 11-12am or by appt.

### Teaching Assistant Information

We have two TA's for this course. You will be "assigned" to one of them, who will grade your course work. If you have questions about your assignments or grades, please email both me and your TA; one of us will get back to you with an answer.

Naga Potlapalli            [naga@nmsu.edu](mailto:naga@nmsu.edu)

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### Course Information

Log into [Canvas](#) at using your NMSU username and password

### Course Description

This course allows students to become familiar with important issues concerning the interaction between forests and society. We look at basic tree growth and how lumber is used. We'll also explore forest types around the world, forest management, and how forests affect human beings. We'll also look at the history of forests and the national parks as well as how government at the state and federal level affects our public lands.

### Course Delivery Method

The course modules will be presented in an asynchronous method, but not self-paced. Students will complete all assignments online, including learning modules, online quizzes, participate in discussions and submit assignments. All assignments need to be turned in on or before the due date. There is one exception which will be monthly online zoom discussion groups. 5 different times will be offered, and you will be **required** to attend AND participate. I have taught this course online for 3 of the last 4 semesters and students consistently state they miss the opportunity to get to know each other better. You should expect to spend 2-4 hours on this course per week, including reading and the assignments for each module.

**Late assignments** will be accepted only in case of emergency (with a doctor's note or other proof). When possible, please contact me IN ADVANCE so that alternatives can be arranged. Work, other class loads, and travel are not considered emergencies. When there are opportunities through the semester to earn extra credit, I will send out an announcement.

## Course Goals

Upon completing the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate comprehension of basic plant physiology.
- 2) Analyze various inputs and environmental factors that affect trees and forests.
- 3) Identify forest biomes based on plant morphology and environmental characteristics.
- 4) Categorize different types of forest products and harvesting methods.
- 5) Compare and contrast various forest management practices in the US and worldwide.
- 6) Evaluate climate and ecological issues as they relate to society.
- 7) Develop an awareness of the interconnection of nature and society.

## Textbook

*Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources*, D.L. Grebner, P. Bettinger and J.P. Siry, Academic Press, ISBN: 978-0-12-386901-2

## Course Organization

This course will be organized into modules, according to the course map. The course map will show the overall plan for the course and the modules will spell out the various assignments, readings and assessments for each section. Canvas modules takes precedence over the syllabus, so if you see a difference between the syllabus and canvas, always go with what's in canvas. You should expect to spend 2-4 hours on this course per week. That time includes reading, doing assignments, writing papers and whatever else is in each module. Some weeks it will be less, some more but 2-4 is a good general rule.

## Communication

The majority of our communication will take place through Canvas email and announcements. Please set your Canvas account profile *New Announcements* in Notifications to *Right Away* (Go to Profile>Notifications, find *Announcements* and set to "*✓ Notify me right away*". You may also wish to change the setting on other notifications and can get a daily summary of course interactions.)

I will send announcements to communicate with the class as a whole. Email and Zoom will be used for one-on-one communication. I will respond to Canvas Inbox correspondence within 24 hours in general, usually less. It may take up to 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Technology Issues

If you're having any IT troubles, please contact the NMSU ICT Help Desk at [help.nmsu.edu](http://help.nmsu.edu) or 575-646-1840. They can also help with software issues: [software.nmsu.edu](http://software.nmsu.edu)

## Grading and Feedback

Online quizzes and exams (Multiple choice and T/F) will be graded immediately. If there are short answer questions, grades will be posted within one week of the due date.

Discussions will be graded within 10 days of the due date. Specific criterion for earning discussion points will be explained with each discussion posted.

Writing assignments will be graded within 10 days of the due date. Grading rubrics for each writing assignment will be posted and you are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to evaluate your paper against the rubric PRIOR to submission.

For discussions and writing assignments, individual feedback will be provided using the Canvas Document Annotation tool and Assignments Comments. Here is information on how to access this feedback:

- [View Rubric results](#)
- [Access Document Annotation](#)
- [See Assignments Comments](#)

## Grading Policy

Below are listed the assignments from which your grade will be derived.

### Assignments in this course:

Assignments	How many	Points each/total
Discussions	4	50/200
Short papers	3	100/300
Homework assignments	8	50/400
Online quizzes	8	50/400
Tests	2	100/200
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,500</b>

### Grading Scale:

Points	Grade
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1350-1500	A
1199-1349	B
1048-1198	C
897-1047	D
896 pts and below	F

### Late Work

As a general rule, late work is not accepted without unavoidable circumstances with timely communication to the instructor and/or a valid excuse. A valid excuse can be in the form of a signed “note” or other time and date stamped proof of unavoidable circumstance.

### Incomplete Grades

The grade of "I" may only be assigned if the student is unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course. An “I” can only be assigned if the student contacts the instructor to ask about this possibility.

### Class Withdrawals

Withdrawing from the course with a “W” is the responsibility of the student. *The instructor will not initiate withdrawal.* The last day to withdraw with a W in Fall, 2021 is **October 18**.

### Academic Misconduct

**Academic and non-academic misconduct:** The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The Student Code of Conduct is [here](#). The most frequent violation is turning in the same words as another student, which is plagiarism. I do not mind if students work together, but you must turn in your own work in your own words. I take this seriously.

### NMSU Student Resources & Policies

Please visit <https://provost.nmsu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus/policies> for university policies and student services, including Discrimination and Disability Accommodation, academic misconduct, student services, final exam schedule, grading policies and more.

## Course Schedule

Please note the schedule is subject to change. More information about specific course activities, assignments and deadlines can be found in the Course Map and individual modules. Modules are **always** released on Fridays at noon and due the following Sunday by 11:59pm.

Dates	Module Title	Module Objectives
Aug. 18-22	Module 0 –Getting started	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain course objectives</li><li>2. Present course materials</li><li>3. Introductions</li></ol>
Aug. 20-Sept. 5	Module 1—All About Trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain the parts, processes and functions of trees</li><li>2. Identify forest biomes of the world.</li></ol>
Sept. 3-19	Module 2—Forest Products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain timber production and other forest products</li><li>2. Examine forest economics</li></ol>
Sept. 17-Oct. 10	Module 3—Forest Ecology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Exhibit understanding of forest ecology</li><li>2. Describe different forest inhabitants, disease and pests.</li><li>3. Illustrate the role of disturbances in forests</li></ol>
Oct. 8-Nov. 7	Module 4—Forest Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the history of the US Forest Service</li><li>2. Examine forest recreation as relates to forest management</li><li>3. Explain ethics of forest management</li><li>4. Categorize different types of forest stewardship</li></ol>
Nov. 5-Dec. 3	Module 5—Forests, Climate and Society	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain urban forestry</li><li>2. Summarize how climate change is impacting forest biomes worldwide.</li><li>3. Examine social and cultural impacts of forests on human mental health</li></ol>