

RGSC/HORT 302V Online

Forestry and Society

Spring, 2021

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: F 1-2pm or via Zoom 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. (TA assignments will be posted at the start of the semester)

Marwa Neyaz marwane@nmsu.edu

Naga Potlapalli naga@nmsu.edu

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. The course also explores forest types around the world, forest management, the lumber industry and how forests affect human beings.

Course Delivery Method

The course modules will be presented in a synchronous 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. 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.

Textbooks and other required Materials

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

Required (free) videos:

The Greatest Good Film, Parts 1-4

Dunsky, S., & Steinke, D. (2005) *The Greatest Good*. United States: United States Forest Service.

[The Greatest Good, Pt. 1](#), Introduction (runtime: 0:33:16)

[The Greatest Good, Pt. 2](#), Building the system (runtime: 0:26:55)

[The Greatest Good, Pt. 3](#), Boom! (runtime: 0:27:47)

[The Greatest Good, Pt. 4](#), The Greatest Good? (runtime: 0:35:47)

[*Florence Williams—The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative*](#)
(runtime: 0:40:59)

Free Nature Interviews. (2019, Jan. 15) *Florence Williams—The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative* [video file]. Retrieved from

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF19K8WRs8w&t=9s>

Course Organization

This course will be organized into modules, according to a 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.

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.

Online Preparation

I would expect you will spend 2 to 4 hours per week on this course. This is somewhat dependent upon your reading speed. Think of your time investment this way: this course in a face-to-face format would meet for 2.5 hours a week, plus time for homework and reading. Think of your time responding to discussion boards as taking the place of face-to-face class time. Your participation and thoroughness is linked to how much time you are willing to devote. You may wish to use this set of questions to help you determine if you're ready to begin in an online learning format. <https://online.nmsu.edu/online-readiness/>

Required Technical Skills

Taking an online course requires technical skills as well as other soft skills. However, at a minimum you will need to meet certain technology abilities to complete work for this course. To begin in this course, you must:

- Be able to obtain access to an internet connection, preferably broadband, and a working computer for the duration of this course. Please use Google Chrome or Firefox for your internet browser as these work best with Canvas.
- Be proficient with Microsoft® Office applications.
- Be able to send and receive emails and email attachments in and out of class.
- Be able to navigate Canvas and change your Notification settings.
- Be able to maintain backups of all work you create for this course.

Technology Requirements

Computer Hardware & Software

- Access to a Windows or Macintosh desktop computer or laptop with internet access, sound, and speakers. A camera for Skyping is helpful.
- Canvas Learning Management System
 - [NMSU Canvas login](#)
 - [Canvas student FAQ](#)
- [Microsoft Office 2007 or higher](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#) (for reading PDF files)
- Adobe Connect – built into Canvas. No download needed.
- Option, depending on where you'll be working--headset with microphone.

Web Browsers

Use only the latest version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox for Canvas. Safari, Internet Explorer, and Microsoft Edge have known issues that can interfere with performing

basic tasks within Canvas. The links to download the recommended browsers as well as instructions on how to ensure you have the latest version are listed below:

- [Download Google Chrome](#)
- [How to update Google Chrome](#)
- [Download Mozilla Firefox](#)
- [How to update Mozilla Firefox](#)

Canvas does not fully support mobile devices; while there is a free Canvas mobile app available through iTunes store, a lot of functionality is unavailable when using a mobile phone. When you take this course, it is assumed you have access to a computer or laptop for full access to functionality in this course.

Netiquette

Online discussions are an integral part of this course. The expectation is that you will conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner and treat others with respect. Discussions may lead to disagreement and if they do, you are still expected to remain courteous and respectful. You will be required to sign a netiquette pledge that states you will adhere to these rules stated below.

- Don't flame (personally attack) someone. It is possible to disagree with an idea without flaming the person espousing the idea.
- Use emoticons and acronyms (such as smiley 😊 or winky 😜 faces or LOL) to convey your emotional intent in order to avoid misunderstandings.
- Remember that the concept of "politeness" is defined for us by the families and cultures of which we are a part. What is considered polite communication in one family or culture may be impolite in another. Sometimes you may inadvertently seem impolite or feel that someone else was being impolite. Talk it out instead of assuming the person meant to be rude.
- Think critically, seek clarity of meaning and understanding. If you're presenting a different viewpoint on a scientific topic, use scientific research and reputable websites to support your statements.
- Question ideas, not people.
- Attempt to see things from other perspectives.
- If you're uncertain about how to respond to a post, please wait a few minutes before posting a reply; allow yourself time to think about what has been said.
- If you feel you're being attacked, report it immediately to me. I will be monitoring discussions but not 24/7, so I may not be seeing things "live".

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 one week 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 | Weight |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| Discussions | 5 | 50/250 | 20% |
| Short papers | 3 | 100/300 | 15% |
| <i>The Greatest Good</i> essay | 1 | 100 | 15% |
| Homework assignments | 6 | 50/300 | 15% |
| Weekly online quizzes | 5 | 50/250 | 15% |
| Exams | 2 | 100/200 | 20% |
| Total | 22 | 1,400 | 100% |

Grading Scale:

| Percentage | Grade |
|---------------|-------|
| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89% | B |
| 70-79% | C |
| 60-69% | D |
| 59% 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 Spring, 2020 is **Thursday, March 25**.

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 available in the NMSU Student Handbook.

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.

- [Apple Privacy Policy for software and devices](#)

Course Schedule

Please note the schedule is subject to change. Should changes be required, you will be notified via Canvas announcements one week in advance.

More information about specific course activities, assignments and deadlines can be found in the Course Map and individual modules.

| Dates | Module Title | Module Objectives |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Jan. 25-31 | Module 0 –Getting started | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain course objectives2. Present course materials3. Introductions |
| Jan. 24-Feb. 14 | Module 1—All About Trees | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the parts, processes and functions of trees2. Identify forest biomes of the world. |
| Feb. 13-Mar. 7 | Module 2—Forest Ecology | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Exhibit understanding of forest ecology2. Describe different forest inhabitants, disease and pests.3. Illustrate the role of disturbances in forests |
| March 6-21 | Module 3—Forest Products | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain timber production and other forest products2. Examine forest economics |
| March 20-April 4 | Module 4—Forest Stewardship | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Categorize different types of forest stewardship2. Explain urban forestry |
| April 3-25 | Module 5—Forest Management | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the history of the US Forest Service2. Examine forest recreation as relates to forest management3. Explain ethics of forest management |
| April 24-May 9 | Module 6—Forests and Society | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Examine social and cultural impacts of forests on humans2. Summarize how climate change is impacting forest biomes worldwide. |