Syllabus

Term: Fall 2015
Course Credits: 3

Instructor

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Email: Sonya.LeFebre@ColoState.edu or use the Email tool in Canvas. I will respond to email within 36 hours, barring unforeseen circumstances.

Technical Support

Need technical assistance with your online course? Try the following:

- Visit the Canvas Student Resources for guides and videos.
- Visit Central I.T. Technical Support Helpdesk for technical support.
- Call 970-491-7276.
- Email Help Desk Support.

Course Overview

NR565 is a unique graduate-level course designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of ecological principles as applied to current natural resource management issues, such as invasive species management or fostering healthy forests. Natural resources ecology is complex, with interacting processes controlled by a range of variables, all of which are in constant flux. This course arms students with the essential knowledge to tackle natural resources challenges in a changing world.

Course Goals and Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe fundamental processes that shape ecosystem structure and function in forests, rangelands and aquatic systems
2. Analyze and anticipate ecosystem response to disturbance and management activities
3. Identify science-based management practices to address common ecological challenges
4. Manipulate and interpret ecological data from natural resource systems

Course Prerequisites

None
NR 565: Principles of Natural Resources Ecology

Required Texts and Materials


Relevant readings will be selected from the textbook and both current and classic scientific publications.

Important Dates to Remember

- Last Day to Add/Drop Classes: Sunday, August 30th, 2015
- Withdrawal Deadline: Monday, October 19th, 2015
- Fall Break: November 23th–November 29th, 2015
- Final grade posted on RAMweb Wednesday, Dec 23rd, 2015

Basis for Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Paper 1</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Paper 2</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Paper 3</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Paper 4</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set 1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set 2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Set 3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion board posts</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1200 100%

Final Course Grade: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 0-59% = F

Grading Expectations

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Schedule. One of my responsibilities is to respond individually to the work you submit and to return your work in a timely manner. Discussions and Problem Sets will be returned within 7 days and Evaluation Papers and Exams will be returned within 10 days. (If, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.)
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Assessments of Learning

Evaluation Papers
Students will choose a question from a list provided by the instructor to address in a short paper. The paper, excluding figures, tables and references, shall be no longer than 1500 words and will ask the student to critically evaluate a specific ecological question. The student will be graded on correct use of terminology as presented in lectures, understanding of key ecological concepts, appropriately citing relevant research, and using logical reasoning to address ecological questions.

Problem Sets
Students will apply quantitative skills to solve ecological problems using equations presented in lecture and in readings. To receive credit, work must be shown, including problem set-up and units.

Exams
Exams will include essay questions and will be closed book, meaning that students are not permitted to consult notes, books or other resources during the exam. Questions will require students to use higher-order thinking skills such as analysis and synthesis while using correct ecological terminology. Emphasis will be on interpretation of mathematical equations learned in class rather than calculations of correct answers; however, simple calculations may be asked that require a basic calculator.

Proctoring
This course requires that all exams are proctored. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by Colorado State University to ensure academic integrity.

In accordance with Colorado State University OnlinePlus proctoring guidelines, you have options for having exams (print-based or online) proctored for this course. All options require you to submit a Proctor Identification Form at least two weeks prior to the first date the exam is available.

Proctoring Options:
- Work with an eligible proctor external of Colorado State University. Your proctor selection is subject to approval. Please review the eligibility guidelines found on the OnlinePlus Proctoring website when selecting an external proctor. Any costs incurred due to using an external proctor are your responsibility.
- Take the exam at an OnlinePlus facility in Fort Collins or Denver, or at the University Testing Center (UTC) on-campus. Schedule an appointment at least three days before you need to take your exam. OnlinePlus offices do not charge for proctoring services. Contact OnlinePlus at (970) 492-4704 (Fort Collins) or (303) 573-6318 (Denver) or the UTC at (970) 491-6498 for more information.
- Use ProctorU, an online proctoring service, which requires a webcam and microphone. Schedule an exam with ProctorU at least four days before you need to take your exam. The cost for using ProctorU is included in the cost of the course.

It is your responsibility to select an eligible proctor, schedule exams with your proctor, and abide by all rules for bringing only appropriate materials into the testing area. Mobile or other electronic devices are strictly prohibited. You will need to provide photo identification to your proctor prior to taking any exam. Appropriate identification includes: driver’s license, CSU Student ID, passport, or other government issued photo identification.

If you have any questions or concerns about proctoring, contact OnlinePlus at onlineplus_proctoring@colostate.edu
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Discussions

To be eligible for full credit in the discussion assignments each week, students should respond to the original question by Thursday of the current week and post an additional two responses by Sunday at 11:59 pm MT. To ensure the integrity of discussions, students are not allowed to post all 3 responses on one day. The purpose of the discussions is to solicit feedback from others in the course in addition to responding to other students. Posting throughout the week enables a student to have a richer experience. Students should demonstrate quality posting based on the following thread criteria:

- Demonstration of having read the material by volunteering answers to questions and seeking clarification of points in the readings
- Asking questions that extend the thinking of the class and the instructor
- Contribution of relevant examples that support and justify claims
- Sharing experiences when asked or when relevant
- Maintaining a positive attitude and professional courtesy
- Bringing unique thought, insight and depth to the topic at hand
- Using proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and citations where appropriate

**DISCUSSION GRADING RUBRIC:** Each post carries a possible 10 points, with a maximum of 30 points possible per threaded discussion.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Knowledge</th>
<th>Quality of Interaction, Organization, Creativity and Insight</th>
<th>Mechanics (Punctuation, Sentence Structure and Spelling)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outstanding</strong></td>
<td>4 points</td>
<td>3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student demonstrates full knowledge of topic and is able to answer all class questions with explanations and elaboration.</td>
<td>Student brings unique thought, insight and depth by providing justification and supporting examples. Student maintains professional courtesy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>2-3 points</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student is at ease with some or most aspects of the topic.</td>
<td>Student provides some insight but does not provide adequate support for ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Below Average</strong></td>
<td>0-1 points</td>
<td>0-1 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student does not demonstrate an understanding of the topic.</td>
<td>Student does not provide insight and/or fails to maintain professional courtesy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Late postings in threaded discussions will not be accepted for credit.

*Note: The Introduction thread at the beginning of the course is an exception to this rule. Introduction Threaded Discussions are worth 10 points and the student is required to post only one time.
Course Policies

Late Work Policy
There are no make-ups for discussion posts, evaluation papers, problem sets, or exams. Assignments submitted late will not be graded. If a student cannot avoid missing a deadline due to a sanctioned university or professional event or special religious observances, the student is required to inform the instructor prior to the anticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion.

Grades of "Incomplete"
Per university policy, an instructor may assign temporary grade of Incomplete to a student who demonstrates that he or she could not complete the requirements of the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control and not reasonably foreseeable. A student must be passing a course at the time that an Incomplete is requested unless the instructor determines that there are extenuating circumstances to assign an Incomplete to a student who is not passing the course. When an instructor assigns an Incomplete, he or she shall specify in writing using the Department Incomplete Grade Form the requirements the student shall fulfill to complete the course as well as the reasons for granting an Incomplete when the student is not passing the course. The instructor shall retain a copy of this statement in his or her grade records and provide copies to the student and the department head or his or her designee. (Section I.6 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual)

Disability Access
Colorado State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations must first contact Resources for Disabled Students before requesting accommodations from the professor. Resources for Disabled Students (RDS; http://rds.colostate.edu/home) is located in room 100 of the General Services Building. Their phone is (970) 491-6385 (V/TDD). Students who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations.

Universal Design for Learning
I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying memo from Resources for Disabled Students may be required before any accommodation is provided.

Professionalism Policy
Part of this course relies on sharing opinions and sharing information. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to communicate with courtesy and professionalism. Professional Courtesy includes respecting others' opinions, being courteous and respectful, and working together in the spirit of cooperation. Sexist, heterosexist, and racist language should not be used when communicating in the course. Discussions and assignments will be graded on quality and professionalism.

E-mail Procedure: All e-mail sent to the instructor for this course should contain the following in the subject line: Course Name and Number, Your Name, Short Description of your question. Please refrain from sending out e-mails to large groups of recipients as to be respectful of others. Also note that the same rules for etiquette in the
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Online classroom (as mentioned above) apply to content in an e-mail. Sending e-mail that violates the rules mentioned above can result in disciplinary action taken by the school.

**Classroom Technology Policies:** This class will use a variety of supporting technologies within the virtual classroom. Etiquette and professional courtesy (as defined above) should be displayed when using these technologies as they are an extension of the classroom.

**Academic Integrity**
The Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship takes academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

> Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding "credit be given where credit is due."


If you plagiarize in your work you could lose credit for the plagiarized work, fail the assignment, or fail the course. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes regular class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, we will ask you to sign the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing all of our major assignments. While you will not be required to sign the honor pledge, we will ask each of you to affirm the following statement on your papers and exams:

"*I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance.*"

**System, Multimedia, and Software Requirements**

Having trouble with the multimedia in this course? See the solutions below. Also, it is highly recommended that you access your course via a **high-speed Internet connection**.

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- Problems with opening PDFs?
  - Download Adobe Reader.

- Canvas acting funny?
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- Review Canvas guide for Supported Browsers.

- YouTube videos not playing?
  - Download Flash Player.

- Videos not opening or playing on your Mac?
  - Download Windows Media Components for QuickTime.

- Still having issues:
  - Call the CSU Help Desk at 970-491-7276 or Email Help Desk Support

You must have speakers installed and working properly on your computer before beginning the course.

You may need access to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and/or Excel to complete assignments. If you do not have access to the Microsoft Office applications, you may use one of the following free resources that allow you to save your files with Microsoft Office file extensions (.doc, .docs, .ppt, .xls):

- Google Apps for CSU—a free, outsourced communications suite endorsed by The University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB)
- Office 365—the full version of Microsoft Office free of charge for CSU students.

Suggested Study Methods

Online education requires skills and habits that may be less essential in traditional courses. In order to be successful in your online course you will need:

- Space—Establish a comfortable and well-organized physical workplace.
- Time management skills—Set personal study and "classroom" time as you would do for a traditional course.
- Organization skills—Print out all class material (modules, PowerPoints, assignments, additional resources, and any work you generate) and keep everything in a single location. Maintain electronic backups of all class materials.
- Communication skills—Demonstrate a willingness to interact with your instructor and classmates through email, phone calls, discussion boards, and active participation in all class activities.
- Initiative—Seek help from your instructor and classmates, ask questions as they arise.
- Discipline—Pace yourself, complete all activities and assignments before the due date, follow through on all class requirements to completion.

The more closely you adhere to the recommendations above the greater your chances of having a successful semester and a rewarding online experience.