NR578: Ecology of Disturbed Lands
Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship
Warner College of Natural Resources

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor
Name: Mark Paschke
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Office Hours: I have an open door policy. When my door is open feel free to stop by anytime. If you have trouble catching me, send me an email, or call to set up an appointment
Website: http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/research-and-outreach/departmental-research/rel

Teaching Assistant
Name: Andrea Borkenhagen
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Phone: andreakborkenhagen@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-12; or by appointment
Website: http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/~davide/David_Cooper/Current_Students_Researchers_Alumni.html

Term: Spring 2016
Class Meeting Days: MWF
Class Meeting Hours: 9:00 – 9:50
Class Location: 201 Natural Resources
Course Credits: 3

Course Overview
The purpose of this course is to provide you with an in-depth understanding of the role that ecological disturbance plays in ecosystems. By understanding the role of disturbance and the subsequent processes of recovery you will have a greater appreciation for how ecosystems are managed and the tools that are used to guide their development.

Course Goals and Objectives
Upon completing this course, student will be able to:
• Describe the role that disturbance plays in the structure and function of ecosystems.
• Describe to mechanisms by which ecosystems recover from various disturbances.
• Recognize when disturbed ecosystems are in need of intervention in order to restore them.
• Describe past research accomplishments, current research themes and future research needs in the area of ecological disturbance.

Students will demonstrate proficiency in these areas in the classroom during student presentations, written assignments and examinations.
Course Prerequisites
NR578 is an advanced ecology course. Students are expected to have a basic understanding of ecology and soil science. Recommended prerequisites are LAND 220 or LIFE 220; and SOCR 240

Required Texts and Materials
There are no required texts for this course but there will be numerous reading assignments posted on RamCT. You will be expected to read these assignments prior to coming to class in order to fully understand lecture material and engage in discussions of the reading assignments.

Important Dates to Remember
Classes Begin: Jan 20th 2016
End Restricted Drop Classes: Jan 22nd 2016
Spring Break: March 14th – 18th, 2016
Withdrawal Deadline: March 21st 2016

Schedule of Topics
1) The nature of Disturbance
2) Post-disturbance recovery
   a) Historical perspectives and Modern consensus
   b) Soil development
   c) Plant / soil interactions
   d) Dispersal / Recruitment
   e) Changing Physical Environments
   f) Species Life History
   g) Species Interactions
   h) Invasive Species
3) Disturbance and recovery Examples
   a) Tropical Moist Forests
   b) Temperate Forests
   c) Marine Systems
   d) Grasslands
   e) Subterranean Ecosystems
4) Current Research
Basis for Final Grade

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
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<td>Literature Review</td>
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Grading Scale (%)

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<td>60 - 69</td>
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<td>0 - 59</td>
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Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the earned grade per day that the assignment is late (including weekend days). Turning in assignments by email is acceptable.

Extra Credit Policy:
There is no extra credit in NR578.

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.
**Attendance Policy:**
Lecture materials will be posted on RamCT but this is not intended as a substitute for attending class. Guest lectures may, or may not be posted. Regular attendance of class is expected and encouraged. There will be pop quizzes throughout the semester and there are NO MAKEUP QUIZZES or EXAMS. Rescheduling of exams is only possible for official University-sanctioned activities and medical issues.

**Religious Accommodation:**
Participation in official University activities, e.g., an out-of-town athletic event, or special religious observances may provide a legitimate reason for an excused absence. The student is responsible for discussing this with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

**Final Exam Policy:**
Final examination week is part of the regular semester. Student attendance shall be consistent with University policy.

If a student has three or more final examinations (not classes) scheduled for the same day or if conflicts of examination times occur, the student may negotiate a time change with the instructors involved. If the parties involved cannot find a mutually agreeable time, the Registrar's Office indicates which courses must be changed.

**Note:** The Registrar’s Office must be notified at least one week prior to Final Examination Week to allow instructors time to make appropriate accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate negotiations.

Any student who has a conflict with the examination schedule must inform the instructor as soon as possible before the examination. If an agreement cannot be reached between the instructor and student as to the appropriateness of a make-up examination the student should appeal to the department head.

http://www.registrar.colostate.edu/final-exams

**Professionalism Policy:**
Per university policy and classroom etiquette; all electronic devices must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

When emailing the instructor, please include your full name, and the course number in your email.

**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 published in the CSU General Catalog (see page seven, column two: http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf).

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 write and sign the following statement on your papers and exams:

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