



F322 Economics of the Forest Environment

Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship
Warner College of Natural Resources

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2018

	Professor	Teaching Assistant
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Class Meeting Days:	M,W,F 2:00-3:40
Class Location:	Gifford 332
Course Credits:	3
Final Exam	May, As Scheduled

Forest economics is the application of microeconomic principles to forestry and natural resource problems. I rely heavily on well-established principles that apply to the special nature of forestry and natural resource issues. Economic applications include supply and demand, price theory, benefit-cost analysis, financial evaluations and economics of management, timber markets, capital theory and production. We will also study property rights issues and non-market forest benefit. Selected current events are also covered.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. To gain an understanding of the material in chapters 1-13, including basic economic principles and theories and how they can be applied to forestry and natural resource issues. Understand capital theory relative to environmental capital and concepts of sustainability.
2. To understand how to value market and non-market forest resources including timber appraisal
3. To understand and to be able to explain the economics differences between private and public forestry enterprise and explain how timber markets work.
4. To perform and explain financial computations of forestry investments.
5. To understand the economic role of certain policy issues, such as fire management and environmental controls

Course Prerequisites

An introductory microeconomics course is a required prerequisite. Because this class is heavily reliant on microeconomic theory, the prerequisite is enforced. You should also be comfortable with basic algebraic manipulations and expressions including the use of exponents. Some calculus is used. You will need a scientific calculator.

CANVAS: Articles, handouts, homework etc., will be placed on Canvas and you will be expected to keep current with these postings, as they will change during the semester.

Course Outline: A course outline will be provided separately.

Required Text

“Principles of Forest and Environmental Economics” (Second Ed.) by D. B. Rideout and H. Hesseln. Substantial material will be assigned from the text. For review, you may also want to consult an introductory microeconomics text.

Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Quizzes	12% Each 60% Total
Homework	10%
Participation & Professionalism	10%
Final Exam	20%
	100%

Final Grade Assignment:

Overall %	Grade
100-90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69- 60	D
59 and Below	F

The homework will be assigned in the last two weeks of the semester.

Quizzes and the Final are closed book and a calculator will be required for some. It is unacceptable to use any electronic device (including cell phones) other than a calculator

Grade Adjustment Policies

If you find an error in grading, please consult with the GTA before the next quiz is given. If you are unable to resolve, bring your quiz to Professor Rideout.

Late Work Policy

Late homework will be discounted by the hour. For example, if the discount rate is 3%/hour then your score will be reduced by a factor of .915. Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Professionalism:

You are now entering the upper division of our educational program and it is time to prepare for your professional career. As such, expectations of professional behavior and preparing for your professional career are likely higher than they were for you as a lower division student. Laptop computers will be closed unless used for verifiable notetaking. Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. **must be silenced** during all lectures. Web surfing is very distracting and not permitted in class. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom immediately to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, napping, surfing,

etc., will be addressed and may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. When emailing the Professor or TA, please include your full name, CSU ID, and the course number in your email. Also, fill in the subject line. Lack of professionalism may result in loss of participation points.

Attendance

You are expected to attend class and are responsible for material covered in class. Failure to attend regularly may result in loss of participation points.

Final Exam Policy

Final examination week is part of the regular semester. Student attendance shall be consistent with University policy – no exceptions.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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.

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.

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>

Academic Integrity:

The University, including 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."

Source: (Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.

<http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism/plagiarismoverview.cfm>.

Accessed, May 25, 2012)

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 to you 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."