



INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE OVERVIEW

The conservation and sustainable management of forests are topics of intense debate as multiple interests vie for the goods and services forests provide to humans and non-humans alike. This course examines the policies and institutions affecting management of forest lands in the U.S.

The course will follow two parallel tracks. The first is analytical in nature, focusing on conceptual frameworks for understanding some of the tensions and assumptions underlying natural resource policy. The second revolves around contemporary issues of forest policy.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major goals, provisions, and issues associated with major policies affecting forest land conservation and management.
2. Apply analytical tools to examine in-depth the effects and effectiveness of forest policies.
3. Identify and explain forest policy development and history.
4. Apply the tools learned in the course through weekly discussion posts and an analysis of a policy issue in forest governance.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

NR567: Analysis of Environmental Impact is a course prerequisite.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

There will not be a textbook associated with this class. All readings and resources will be posted in Canvas and available through the CSU Library e-reserve system.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

See the Dates and Deadlines page under Frequently Asked Questions on the Colorado State University Online webpage (<https://www.online.colostate.edu/faqs/important-dates.dot>). These dates and deadlines include: the last day to Add/Drop Classes without an Instructor Override, when registration closes, the withdrawal deadline, semester breaks, and the last day to process a university withdrawal.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

The course is organized in 16 modules over the course of the semester. Modules are presented on a weekly basis and are comprised of readings, videos, learning activities and graded assignments. Students will complete all tasks in each module on a week-by-week basis before moving on to subsequent modules. Materials will be available for students to review ahead of schedule. Assignments are to be completed according to the due dates provided in Canvas.

BASIS FOR FINAL GRADE

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience.

To that end, it is my commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. Smaller, weekly assignments will be returned within 1 week, and major assignments will be returned within 2 weeks. If, however, 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.

Assessment	Approximate Grade %	Points
Weekly discussions (14 graded discussions @ 25 points each, drop lowest score and discussion led by student)	30%	300
Student-led discussion questions and facilitation	7.5%	75
Forest policy research report	62.5%	625
Forest policy introduction	5%	50
Problem definition analysis	10	100
Issue expansion strategies	10	100
Policy tools analysis	10	100
Peer review assignments (3 @ 25 points each)	7.5%	75
Final report	20%	200
Total	100%	1000

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas course learning management system.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Discussions: Students will write weekly discussion posts, analyzing the module materials to answer targeted questions posted by the instructor and student facilitators.

Facilitate online discussion: Throughout the semester, students will take turns co-facilitating the online discussions with the instructor. This will foster their facilitation experience and knowledge of the topic being discussed.

Forest policy research report:

Students will demonstrate their understanding of forest policy and policy analysis by applying the analytical tools covered throughout the semester. This project will be broken into smaller assignments which will build into the final research report:

- **Forest policy Introduction:** Students will first create a video exploring a major issue in forest governance. This will develop students' ability to identify and explain policy goals and issues within the social context of the time the policy was enacted or introduced. This will introduce the policy students plan to evaluate for their research report throughout the semester.
- **Problem definition analysis:** Students will examine how problems are being defined in an existing or a proposed forest policy.
- **Issue expansion strategies:** Students will outline how issues have gained traction for an existing or a proposed forest policy in this paper.
- **Policy tools analysis:** This paper will analyze the appropriateness of policy tools of the chosen forest policy, building off of your previous research report components.
- **Final report:** This will be a compilation of all previous components of the paper, synthesizing the analysis into a final report.
- **Peer review:** Every student will review each of 3 components of the forest policy research report for one of their classmates throughout the semester.

GRADE DESCRIPTION

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
0-59% = F

LATE WORK POLICY

Deadlines for assignments are clearly defined in Canvas. There are no make-ups unless negotiated at least two weeks in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be assessed a penalty: 5 % penalty for 1 day late and 10% for 2-7 days late. Assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY

No extra credit will be offered.

LIBRARY & RESEARCH HELP

The CSU Libraries Help Desk provides basic research and technical assistance either in person at Morgan Library or by phone at 970-491-1841. Virtual assistance is also available via the Libraries' Ask Us chat and email services (<http://lib.colostate.edu/help/ask-us>). Jocelyn Boice is the librarian supporting the Forest and Rangeland Stewardship Department and this course. Contact her for in-depth assistance at: jocelyn.boice@colostate.edu / 970-491-3882.

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.

GRADES OF "INCOMPLETE"

Per university policy, an instructor may assign a 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 department head or their designee (Section I.6 of Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual).

COPYRIGHTED COURSE MATERIALS

Please do not share material from this course in online, print, or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

THIRD-PARTY TOOLS/PRIVACY

Please note that this course may require you to use third-party tools (tools outside of the Canvas learning management system), such as Skype, Google Hangouts and others. Some of these tools may collect and share information about their users. Because your privacy is important, you are encouraged to consult the privacy policies for any third-party tools in this course so that you are aware of how your personal information is collected, used and shared.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

This course will adhere to CSU's [Academic Integrity/Misconduct](#) policy as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#). Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. Violations of the university's academic integrity standards include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating—includes using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work or engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by the faculty member.
- Plagiarism—includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
- Unauthorized Possession or Disposition of Academic Materials—includes the unauthorized selling or purchasing of examinations or other academic work; stealing another student's work; unauthorized entry to or use of material in a computer file; and using information from or possessing exams that an instructor did not authorize for release to students.
- Falsification—includes any untruth, either verbal or written, in one's academic work.
- Facilitation—includes knowingly assisting another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Practicing Academic Integrity](#).

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**.

- Problems with opening PDFs?
 - Download [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#).
- Canvas acting funny?
 - Review Canvas guide for [Which browsers does Canvas support?](#)
- YouTube videos not playing?
 - Download [Adobe Flash Player](#).
- 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 already have access to Microsoft Office-compatible applications, you may use one of the following free resources:

- [Google Apps for CSU](#)—a free, outsourced communications suite endorsed by The University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB)
- [Software Downloads / Office 365 - Microsoft Office](#)—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.