



COURSE SYLLABUS  
NR 444 FIRE ECONOMICS AND POLICY  
Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship  
Warner College of Natural Resources

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Instructor: Professor Douglas Rideout  
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Office Hours: T, Th 3:00 and by appointment.  
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**Meeting: T, Th at 4:00 to 5:15 Room 127 Forestry**

### Introduction

Fire economics and policy are rapidly evolving in response to an increase in the presence of fire as a major topic in the natural resources field. This course will expose you to current policies, economic theory and quantitatively based methods to enhance your understanding of this rapidly evolving profession. The course relies heavily on microeconomics including both consumer theory as a foundation for valuation and on production theory and the production function for development of the operating models and for policy interpretation.

### Course Goals and Objectives

1. To understand the evolution of federal wildland fire policy and its relationship to fire economics and the evolving paradigm of land management planning as demonstrated through discussions, a formal policy notebook and exams.
2. To understand the development of the wildland fire economics models and techniques as they have progressed, are currently employed and are evolving as demonstrated in discussions and exams.
3. To develop an understanding of the connection between fire planning, economics and selected quantitative methods as demonstrated through homework and exams.

### Course Topical Outline

See separate handout.

### Course Prerequisites

None, however I recommend you have some background in economics such as F322 or other 300 level microeconomics.

### Required Texts and Materials

Required materials will be posted or referenced on Canvas. Check Canvas regularly for updates as this will how most of the course materials will be made available to you.

### Late Work Policy:

Work is due at the **beginning** of the class period of the due date. Late work scores are discounted at the rate of 3% per hour.

### Attendance Policy:

Attendance is an important part of the class and chronic unexcused absence (4 or more sessions) will result in a reduction in your grade. See grading. 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.

**Important Dates**

Six Mini-Midterms will be given: one following each module.

Project Due November 29.

Homework date will be assigned during class

**Grading**

Grading Event	Percent of Final Grade
Mini Midterms (6)	60%
Homework	15%
Policy Project	15%
Attendance & Participation	10%
	100%

Grading Scale (%)	
90-100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

## University Policies and Information

### 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](mailto:jocelyn.boice@colostate.edu) / 970-491-3882.

### 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."

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."***

### 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; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.* **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 or TA, please include your full name, CSU ID, and the course number in your email.

**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.