INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. John L. Willis
Office: 361 Thompson Hall  Phone: 662-325-0523
Office Hours: By appointment  E-mail: jw2905@msstate.edu

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES:

Refer to the Center for Distance Education’s website for general information:
http://www.distance.msstate.edu/.

Start and end dates of online distance learning courses follow the Spring Semester Calendar:

PREREQUISITS:

Graduate standing with a forestry/biology background or consent of the instructor.

TIME:

This course will follow the pace detailed in the course outline. There will not be a formal
class meeting time. However, students are expected to keep up with the course material, as there
will be weekly quizzes based around the assigned lectures and readings.
COURSE DESCRIPTION/GOALS:

This course seeks to provide students with a broad, non-technical overview of the underlying ecological and silvicultural concepts that are associated with the sustainable management of the major forest types in North America. Much of the course material will be biological/ecological oriented, and focus on the effects of silviculture, insects, pathogens, and natural disturbance events on forest stand dynamics. In addition, this course will address how silviculture is evolving to meet an assortment of timber and non-timber natural resource objectives. Specific learning outcomes for the course include:

1. Explain how different forest types develop over time.
2. Explain the concept of sustainable forest resource use.
3. Explain basic stand dynamics, and how silviculture is used to alter stand development.
4. Explain traditional silvicultural strategies for a variety of different forest types.
5. Explain how previous harvesting prescriptions and forest policy continue to influence forest species composition.
6. Introduce new approaches to forest management.
7. Introduce how silvicultural techniques can be used to accomplish a variety of natural resource objectives.
8. Provide insights into potential future challenges facing sustainable forest management.
9. Improve students’ critical thinking and communication skills.

COURSE FORMAT:

Recorded lectures (voiced over Microsoft PowerPoint slides) will be used to present course materials. Students will be able to view lectures on MyCourses (i.e., Blackboard Learn+) at any time. In addition to lectures, students will be also be assigned journal articles related to that week’s subject matter. These articles will also be available on MyCourses.

TEXT:

EXAMPLE COURSE MATERIAL:


GRADING SYSTEM:

Grades will be determined by student performance on quizzes, a mid-term exam, a literature review (Graduate Students only), and a comprehensive final exam. Course grades are awarded as listed below:

A= 90%+
B= 80-89.9%
C= 70-79.9%
D= 60-69.9%
F= <60%

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Graduate Students
Quizzes 50pts
Mid-Term Exams 200pts
Power Point Lecture 100pts
Final Exam 150pts
**Quizzes:** There will be three announced quizzes posted on MyCourses (i.e., Blackboard Learn®). Quizzes will be timed and based on the material presented in lectures and readings presented since the last quiz or exam. To prevent academic dishonesty, all quizzes will be taken within a Respondus Lockdown Browser®. There will be a 24 hour window in which the quiz will be available. All quizzes will be made available on Friday. Failure to take the quiz on the assigned day will result in a failing grade (0). Quiz questions will be presented in a variety of formats.

**Mid-Term Exam:** Two mid-term exams will be given periodically in the semester. The exams will be made available on MyCourses (i.e., Blackboard Learn®) and must be taken within a Respondus Lockdown Browser®. The exam will follow an essay short answer format. All exams will be posted on Friday and must be taken within a 24 hour window. Failure to take the mid-term during the assigned time period will result in a failing grade (0).

**Student Lecture:** Each graduate student must present me a power point lecture. All presentations are due on the announced date. However, students are expected to make an appointment with me to present their presentation over the phone. I will post times two-weeks prior to presentation collection date. Students can choose any topic they wish their lecture; so long as it is related to applied forest ecology/silviculture and is separate from their dissertation or thesis topic.

**Final Exam:** Students will take a comprehensive written exam. The exam will be made available on MyCourses (i.e., Blackboard Learn®) during finals week (April 29th-May 5th) and will be in essay form. To prevent academic dishonesty, the final exam must be taken within a Respondus Lockdown Browser®. There will be a review session before the exam in the course chatroom to help students prepare for the exam and clarify any existing issues with the material. The final will be cumulative and will be presented in an essay format.

**Course Schedule:**

*This is a tentative schedule. All topics and dates are subject to change*

**All lectures and materials will be made available on Wednesdays and Fridays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January, 13th</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 18th</td>
<td>Seed size and dispersal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 20th</td>
<td>Shade tolerance/drought tolerance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 25th</td>
<td>Plant competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 27th</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 1st</td>
<td>Sprouting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 3rd</td>
<td>Fire and Wind Disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 8th</td>
<td>Herbivory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 10th</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February, 15th</td>
<td>Evenaged Silviculture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February, 17th    Unevenaged Silviculture
February, 22nd   Northern hardwoods and selection harvesting
February, 24th   Quiz 2
March, 1st       Northern hardwoods and invasive insects
March 3rd        Mixed-woods forests and species diversity
March, 8th       Mixed-woods forests and landscape management
Marc, 10th       Exam 2
March, 15th      Spring Break
March, 17th      Spring Break
March, 22nd      Mesophication of oak forests
March, 24th      Production forestry
March, 29th      Ponderosa pine management and shelterwoods
March, 31st      Quiz 3
April, 5th       Aspen management
April, 7th       Longleaf pine restoration *LECTURES DUE*
April, 12th      Shortleaf pine restoration
April, 14th      Holiday
April, 19th      Douglas fir management and variable retention thinning
April, 21st      Lodgepole pine management
April, 26th      Review
April, 28th      Final Exam
PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS:

Please read and follow the advice given in the “Professional Expectations for Students in the Forestry Program” document provided on the first day of class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Violations of the academic honesty code will be dealt with in the strictest terms. Students are advised to become familiar with the University’s academic honesty code. The Honor Code reads as:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those that do.”

Policies and procedures for handling academic misconduct as outlined under University Policies Relating to Students can be found at Internet Web site address http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/student_policies.html and will be followed in this course. Students are responsible for reading all materials (including those contained in the Attachments under Policies Regarding Student Behavior; e.g., especially the Honor Code; Student Affairs OP 91.100, Code of Student Conduct) within this Web site relating to academic misconduct. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that both the letter and the intent of this code are met in all circumstances. Ignorance of this code will not provide a refuge from the consequences of misconduct. In addition the seal and pledge below will appear on all exams and students are expected to sign it.

“On my honor, as a Mississippi State Student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this academic work.”

Student Signature
TITLE IX:
MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU’s educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU’s Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/title9-12.pdf, or at http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:
Disability Support Services seeks to provide educational access and opportunity through support, resources, advocacy, collaboration, and academic accommodations for students with disabilities (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Students who need academic accommodations based on a disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at www.sss.msstate.edu.