

**University of Florida
School of Forest Resources & Conservation**

**FOR 2662
FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE
Spring, 2020
3 credits**

**Tuesdays, Periods 3-4 (9:35 – 11:30), Newins Ziegler Hall 112
Thursdays, Period 3 (9:35 – 10:25), Newins Ziegler Hall 112**

<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (Canvas System)

Course Description: This course will examine society's interaction with forests. It will focus on important forest issues, which affect how individuals, communities, and institutions make decisions about forest resources. Each issue will be discussed using relevant case studies as a backdrop. Topics include: values that inform our perception and use of forests, clearcutting, prescribed fire, tree genetics, forest health and international agroforestry. Each of these topics will be discussed using three fundamental concepts as a framework:

- **Human perceptions and values of forests**
- **Functions of forest ecosystems**
- **Management and use of forests**

Students will be expected to understand key issues discussed and understand and analyze the major social and ecological variables that affect each issue. Specifically, students will:

- Understand the dynamic nature of forest ecosystems and that complex relationships exist between stakeholders, their values, and their perceptions of forests,
- Be able to interpret and analyze environmental issues related to forests and forest management,
- Develop well-reasoned judgments about what to do or believe when reading popular literature on forest management, values and ecosystem functions, and
- Communicate effectively with others in determining solutions to environmental issues.

Lead Instructor

Taylor Stein, Professor of Ecotourism and Natural Resources Management

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 – 1:30 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Cece Lepa (lead TA)

- cecilia.lepa@ufl.edu

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Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor Team

Alison Adams, Assistant Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology
– (352) 294-0615, alison.adams@ufl.edu
Mysha Clarke, Assistant Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
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Kotryna Klizentyte, Ph.D. Student, Forest Economics and Policy/Ecotourism
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Gary Peter, Professor of Forest Genomics
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Course Readings

Course readings are available on the course website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>) or passed out in class.

Course Grading

<u>Projects/Exams</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Final Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Exams/Final Assignments (5 for 10 points each)	50	93.4 – 100	A
Writing Assignments (5 for 5 points each)	25	90.0 – 93.3	A-
Participation	5	86.7 – 89.9	B+
Course Wrap-up	20	83.4 – 86.6	B
Total	100	80.0 – 83.3	B-
		76.7 – 79.9	C+
		73.4 – 76.6	C
		70.0 – 73.3	C-
		66.7 – 69.9	D+
		63.4 – 66.6	D
		60.0 – 63.3	D-
		Less than 60%	E (Fail)

Course Tasks

Exams/Final Assignment

In order for the instructors to assess your progress during their section of the course, you will complete an exam/assignment that covers the information you were provided during that section. These exams/assignments will take a variety of forms (e.g., in-class exam to out-of-class essay), and they will all be worth 10 points each.

Assignments

To give you a thorough understanding and appreciation for the issues discussed in class, you will be required to complete five assignments throughout the semester – each worth five points each. They will include both in-class and out-of-class written assignments. These exercises will test your awareness of the information about a specific issue, as well as your ability to think about that issue, and apply that information to current situations. Each exercise will be discussed in detail before it is due.

You will be asked to submit most of your written assignments as in class or as email attachments. Please be sure to follow the instructor's instructions on when and how to turn in assignments. Late assignments will not be excused and will result in a **standard deduction of 1 point if late, and 1 additional point for every 24 hours the assignment is late.**

Participation

This class moves quickly and builds on each day's activities - attendance is crucial. You must participate in all aspects of this course to get full credit. Specifically, participation will be graded on the following criteria:

1. Class attendance,
2. Class conduct (e.g., arriving on time, contributing to class discussions, and no disruptive behavior),
3. Completion of in-class exercises, and
4. Observed participation in group activities.

If you receive more than three unexcused absences, you will lose all participation points for the course. To receive an excused absence, you must tell the TA before the class you plan to miss that you will be absent and give a reasonable excuse (e.g., studying for another class is NOT a reasonable excuse).

Students will also be expected to take part in course discussion. Although we don't expect all students to speak all the time, you will have the opportunity to provide input verbally and written. Occasionally, instructors might ask you to submit written comments based on lectures (in-class or email). Failure to submit these written comments will result in points deducted from your participation score.

Finally, repeatedly coming to class late and disrupting class will result in points deducted from your participation score.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Course Wrap-up

To put the entire course in context, at the end of the semester, you will write a topic paper and present information from that paper to the class that is based on information from all sections of the course. Detailed instructions for completing the paper and presentation will be provided in class.

Special Notes

1. Individuals who miss classes are expected to make arrangements with the professor(s) teaching that section of the class, the TA, and other students in the class to get lecture materials.
2. Class participation is essential, and your opinion is valued regardless of your perspective. This class will teach you how to form well-reasoned opinions; in other words, our job is to teach you how, not what, to think.
3. Turn off cell phones and only use laptops for taking notes. E-mailing or surfing websites during class is not permitted. Instructors will require all laptops to be closed if students are found misusing laptops during class.
4. **Remember, do not plagiarize!** When you use information from a source, tell us where you got that information. Copying information from other documents (whether they are websites, newspaper articles, journal articles, or anything) is plagiarism and you will fail the course if caught plagiarizing.

Other Information

Academic Honesty

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams).

Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/*
Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Wellness Coaching
- *Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/*

Online Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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Spring 2020 Class Schedule

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Week	Day	Topic
1	Jan. 7 9	Introduction to Course and Instructors <i>Forests and People – Taylor Stein</i>
2	14 16	
3	21 23	
4	28 30	<i>Sociology of Forests and Natural Resources – Alison Adams</i>
5	Feb. 4 6	
6	11 13	<i>Forest Economics and Policy – Kotryna Klizentyte</i>
7	18 20	
8	25 27	
Spring Break		
9	March 10 12	<i>Invasive Species, Forests and People – Mysha Clarke</i>
10	17 19	
	March 21 Saturday	Field Trip
11	24 26	<i>Forest Management – Gary Peter</i>
12	31 April 2	
13	7 9	
14	14 16 21	Course Synthesis Project Introduction Course Synthesis Project Group Work Course Synthesis Presentations