

FO3012: INTRODUCTION TO FOREST COMMUNITIES

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Office Hours: Dr. Hatten: 7:00AM – 7:45AM and after class daily

Lecture Room: a208 Thompson Hall Annex

Prerequisites: PSS 3303 Soils
FO 2112/2111 Dendrology

Objectives: Our objective is to provide students with an introduction to how landscapes and forest communities develop and are characterized and classified. This will include an introduction to the natural features of landscapes and forest communities, and their role in influencing land use. Instructional approaches will include lectures, field observations, and exercises that demonstrate various techniques used in ecology, silviculture, soils, hydrology, and watershed and wildlife management.

Course Materials: Course materials will be provided in a 3-hole punched booklet (purchase from Barnes & Nobles at MSU) and from links to files and Web addresses on the course web page and myCourses.

Expectations of Student Behavior: Much of the work in this course is performed out of doors and within a crew format. In order to operate efficiently and make this course a meaningful learning experience, we expect that students will act responsibly, cooperatively, and with respect for fellow students and course instructors. Any activity deemed disruptive and not in agreement with these standards of behavior may result in a reduction of course grade or dismissal from the course.

Academic Misconduct: MSU students proudly follow the Honor Code:

“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/dept/audit/1207.html> and will be followed in this course. Students are responsible for reading all materials (including that contained in the Attachments) 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.

Course Rules:

1. Attendance is mandatory. There are 10 class days, so 10 percent of the course grade will be deducted for each day of unexcused absence. Also, you are expected to arrive in class on time and to be on the bus or van at designated departure times. One percent of the course grade will be deducted for each late appearance.
2. Use of tobacco products is not permitted in the classroom or on the busses and vans.
3. Hardhats will be worn at all times when working in the field. Hats off during indoor classes.
4. Cell phones on silent during lectures and field exercises.

Course

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated based upon daily quizzes, exercises, a final report, and a comprehensive final examination.

1. A **journal** consisting of your field notes and observations will be turned in at the end of the two week class. Your journal will show that you paid attention and took notes each day there was a presentation (8 days). The only other requirement is that you clearly label each page with the date that the notes were taken. A half percent of your final grade will be taken off for each day that you did not take sufficient notes.
2. **Daily quizzes** will be given at the start of most class days. Quizzes will be on materials covered during the previous day's lectures and field assignments.
3. **Daily exercise** reports will be required for most exercises. These reports will consist of data collection and interpretation as well as material covered during class. Data will be collected in crews, and will be entered into an Excel spreadsheet provided to you. In most cases **the exercise and Excel spreadsheets containing the day's data are due by the beginning of class the next day.** This data will be used for a final report (Item 3 below). The portion of the exercise that deals with data interpretation and material covered in class can be completed as a group/crew or as individual (your choice). All members of the crew are required to contribute to the collection of data. Other members of a crew must report to the instructor any lack of participation by a crew member. Failure to do one's fair share of the work will result in a reduction of the individual student's grade for that exercise.
4. A **final report** will involve performing data analyses and interpretation on information collected throughout the class. The report will be directed by a series of questions posed by the professors. These questions will be addressed and

answered through the appropriate presentation of data in figures and tables, data analysis, and written data interpretation. This final report will be completed within your crew (1 report per crew) and due by 5 pm on Thursday June 17. All members of the crew are required to contribute to this report. Other members of a crew must report to the instructor any lack of participation by a crew member. Failure to do one's fair share of the work will result in a reduction of the individual student's grade for this report.

5. The **final exam** on Friday will consist of two parts. A field portion will test the student's knowledge of landscapes, soils and dendrology. The dendrology exam will require knowledge and correct spelling of the common name, genus, and species. A comprehensive written portion will cover all of the concepts and techniques presented during the course.

ALL work will be turned into Dr. Hatten. Excel spreadsheets will be turned in via email while exercises and journals will be handed to Dr. Hatten during class or office hours.

The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

Daily Quizzes (I)	15 %
Daily Exercises (I and C)	10%
Final Report (C)	25%
Journal (I)	5%
Final Examination:	
Dendrology & Soils (I)	20 %
Written (I)	25 %
(I) – Individual efforts, (C) – Crew efforts	

Course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
<60%	F

**Instructions on Obtaining Electronic Information for
FO 3012 "Introduction to Forest Communities"
Summer 2010**

FO3012 course Web Page (accessible from home computers):

The FO3012 Web Page can be accessed through the College of Forest Resources home page at:
<http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/>

From the CFR home page click on [Forestry] under DEPARTMENTS; then click on [Courses]. Scroll down the list of courses until you reach **FO 3012 - Introduction to Forest Communities**. Click on that link to get into the course webpage.

Lecture material will also be provided on myCourses.

Papers required for FO 3012 are stored as Microsoft Word files and Adobe Acrobat files under "Class Documents" in the following bulleted items:

Course Syllabus

Tree List (a list of tree species and their abbreviated codes)

Hickory Key (a key for identifying hickory species)

Soils Key (a manual and keys for identifying soils in the area around MSU).