

RGSC/HORT 302V Online

Forestry and Society

Fall, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Rachel Gioannini

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Office Hours: T 10-11am, W 1:30-2:30pm or by appt.

Teaching Assistant: Dikshya Sapkota

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Welcome to Forestry and Society!

I'm looking forward to this class, it's one of my favorites to teach. I love the outdoors and love explaining the importance of the natural world. We learn a lot of different topics in this class, starting with basic plant processes and functions, then about the importance of trees in our daily lives, the history of forests and the national parks as well as how government at the state and federal level affects our public lands. In the last part of the class, we look at the mental health benefits of being outdoors and how forests affect human beings.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of basic plant physiology.
2. Analyze various environmental inputs and factors that affect trees and forests.
3. Identify forest biomes based on plant morphology and environmental characteristics.
4. Categorize different types of forest products and harvesting methods.
5. Compare and contrast various forest management practices in the US.
6. Evaluate climate and ecological issues as they relate to society.
7. Develop an awareness of the interconnection of nature and society.

Course structure

This class is 100% online and asynchronous but not self-paced. which means you do the work in your own time, though within the deadlines. All modules open on Fridays at noon and close 10 days later, Sunday at midnight. Everything you need is in each module and my goal is to make the course simple to navigate. You should expect to spend 4-6 hours on this course per week, including reading and the assignments for each module.

Textbook

Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources, 2nd edition!, D.L. Grebner, P. Bettinger, J.P. Siry and K. Boston Academic Press, ISBN: 978-0-12-819002-9

Communication

Most of our communication will take place through Canvas email and announcements. Please set your Canvas account profile *New Announcements* in Notifications to *Right Away* (Go to Profile>Notifications, find *Announcements* and set to “*Notify me right away*”). You may also wish to change the setting on other notifications and can get a daily summary of course interactions.)

I will send announcements to communicate with the class as a whole. Email, office visits and/or Zoom will be used for one-on-one communication. I will respond to Canvas Inbox correspondence within 24 hours in general, usually less. It may take up to 48 hours on weekends and holidays. You can leave voice mail on my office number and you can also text me on my cell.

Technology Issues

If you're having any IT troubles, please contact the NMSU ICT Help Desk at help.nmsu.edu Links to an external site. or 575-646-1840. They can also help with software issues: software.nmsu.edu

[Links to an external site.](#)

Grading and Feedback

Online quizzes and tests will be graded immediately. If there are short answer questions, grades will be posted within one week of the due date, usually quicker. Short answers *may* originally show up as incorrect; please give us time to review the answers before you tell us.

Discussions will be graded within a week of the due date. Specific criterion for earning discussion points will be explained with each discussion posted.

Writing assignments will be graded within 10 days of the due date. Grading rubrics for each writing assignment will be posted and you are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to evaluate your paper against the rubric PRIOR to submission. You can use AI for your assignments, but it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED that you read what AI generated before you submit it. Fictitious citations generated by AI will be automatic deduction of one letter grade.

For discussions and writing assignments, individual feedback will be provided using the Canvas Document Annotation tool and Assignments Comments.

Grade Scheme

Below are listed the assignments from which your grade will be derived:

Points for assignments

Assignments	How many	Points each/total
Discussions	4	50/200
Short papers	3	100/300
Homework assignments	8	50/400
Online quizzes	8	50/400
Tests	3	100/300
Total		1,600

Final grade ranges

Points	Grade
1440-1600	A
1279-1439	B
1118-1278	C
957-1117	D
956 pts and below	F

Late work & Free Passes

You will have 10 days to complete assignments. Because there are no unexpected deadlines or surprise assignments, I do not, as a rule, accept late work unless there are unavoidable circumstances and/or with timely communication to the instructor and/or a valid excuse. When possible, please contact me **IN ADVANCE** so that alternatives can be arranged. Work, other class loads, and travel are not considered emergencies.

If you find that you're not able to complete the assignment by the deadline, it is better to turn in SOMETHING than submit nothing at all. For instance, half finished homework could get as much as 50 points, which is 50% better than a 0.

Free Passes: Everyone has 3 free passes that you can use, no questions asked. These can be used for homework assignments or quizzes but NOT for discussions, papers or tests. To use your free pass, please EMAIL myself and Dikshya, the TA. We will keep track of your free passes.

Incomplete Grades & Withdrawal

The grade of "I" may only be assigned if the student is unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course. An "I" can only be assigned if the student contacts the instructor to ask about this possibility.

Withdrawing from the course with a "W" is the responsibility of the student. ***The instructor will not initiate withdrawal.*** The last day to withdraw with a W in Fall, 2023 is **October 12.**

Academic Misconduct

Academic and non-academic misconduct: The Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct, non-academic misconduct and the consequences or penalties for each. The [Student Code of Conduct here.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) is The most frequent violation is turning in the same words as another student, which is plagiarism. I do not mind if students work together, but you must turn in your own work in your own words. I take this seriously.

NMSU Student Resources and Policies

Please visit <https://provost.nmsu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus/policies>

Course Schedule

Check modules for specifics on assignments, instructions, due dates, etc.

Please note the schedule is subject to change. More information about specific course activities, assignments and deadlines can be found in the Course Map and individual modules. Modules are **always** released on Fridays at noon and due the following Sunday by 11:59pm.

Module Title	Dates	Module Objectives
Module 0 – Getting started	Aug. 16-20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain course objectives 2. Present course materials 3. Introductions
Module 1—All About Trees Sections 1 & 2	Aug. 18-Sept 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the parts, processes and functions of trees 2. Identify forest biomes of the world.
Module 2—Forest Products Sections 1 & 2	Sept. 1-17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain timber production and other forest products 2. Examine forest economics
Module 3—Forest Ecology Sections 1- 3	Sept. 15-Oct. 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhibit understanding of forest ecology 2. Describe different forest inhabitants, disease and pests. 3. Illustrate the role of disturbances in forests
Module 4—Forest Management Sections 1-4	Oct. 6-Nov. 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the history of the US Forest Service 2. Examine forest recreation as relates to forest management 3. Explain ethics of forest management 4. Categorize different types of forest stewardship
Module 5— Forests, Climate and Society Sections 1-3	Nov. 3-Dec. 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain urban forestry 2. Summarize how climate change is impacting forest biomes worldwide. 3. Examine social and cultural impacts of forests on human mental health