

NR 201 – *Managing Natural Resources for the Future*

Fall Term 2022

Credits: 3

Instructor: Dave Stemper

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Course Description

Overview of the complexities involved in managing natural resources, with primary emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. Exposure to major natural resource issues, and development of critical thinking skills useful in seeking solutions to those issues. This course is designed for students interested in learning more about how and why natural resources are managed in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The intent is to model how resource specialists work together to solve real-world problems, encourage you to express and examine the values you hold about natural resources, and help you learn to work in an interdisciplinary manner to examine current natural resource issues.

Course Credits

Through approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments, students will earn a total of 3 credits for this course.

Canvas

This course is delivered via Canvas, where you will interact with the course, your classmates, and instructor. Within the course Canvas site, you will access the course syllabus, weekly learning materials, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#).

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

- Identify characteristics used to define ecosystems and ecosystem services.
- Identify some key renewable, natural resources.
- Describe some ecosystem processes such as photosynthesis and nutrient cycling.

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu Tel: 800-667-1465

- Describe key skills and abilities necessary to become a successful natural resource specialist.
- Examine major natural resource issues that you are likely to face in your career.
- Discuss guiding principles and/or techniques used to help solve natural resource issues.
- Prepare reports illustrating natural resource issues associated with a landscape or region
- Compare and contrast potential solutions to various natural resource issues.
- Defend a proposed resolution to a natural resource issue, and critique resolution strategies offered by others.
- Communicate effectively in writing.

Learning Resources (Optional):

There are two **optional** 'sources' for this course:

1. Knight & Bates (ed.). 1995. *A New Century for Natural Resources Management*. Island Press. ISBN: 9781559632621.

You are not required to purchase this book. Used copies are often available from online booksellers, including Amazon.com. Chapters from the Knight & Bates text that are referenced in the course schedule are simply intended to augment content delivered in our weekly presentations. ***Read the referenced chapters if you have a desire to explore content and concepts a bit further.*** Our weekly course modules will contain outlines of the referenced chapters. These outlines will contain topics and concepts shared via the Knight & Bates text. For any exam questions that reference the Knight & Bates textbook, the outlines will be sufficient to answer them.

2. Fraidenburg. 2007. *Intelligent Courage: Natural Resource Careers that Make a Difference*. Krieger. ISBN: 9781575242873.

You are not required to purchase this book, though it is available through the OSU Bookstore. Though optional reading, I recommend the Fraidenburg book for those of you seriously considering a career in natural resources. Reading and reporting on this book is one option for the course Career Exploration Assignment.

* Any additional readings assigned during the term will be made available via the course Canvas site *

Evaluation of Student Performance

Understanding of course content is assessed via written assignments, participation in course discussions, and two exams (midterm and final).

What you take from the course reflects what you put in! While the course is rich in content, any learning is up to you. Be sure to absorb all materials shared via weekly modules. Also be aware that the course schedule is subject to minor changes. You will be made aware of any such changes via course announcement.

All assignments must be submitted via the course Canvas site. Assignment upload pages will be available within course modules, and students will be notified of upload page location & due dates via course announcement. Shown below are the types of assignments you might expect in this course, though the specific nature of those assignments may change from one term to the next. Again, you will be notified of changes to any assignment.



Issue Papers: Examine your own attitudes & opinions regarding natural resource management issues, and then share and discuss them with classmates. This will be a term-long project resulting in 2 papers.

Career Exploration: Provided with information and resources pertaining to natural resource careers, you will share your thoughts and report on what you've learned. The report turned in will be a minimum of 3 pages (additional report parameters will be shared via a separate assignment file).

Exams: One midterm exam and one final exam. Both will be open book, and available via our course Canvas site. Details regarding exams will be shared as the term proceeds.

Class Participation: Engage in periodic discussion forums on the NR 201 Canvas site.

When participating in Canvas discussions, your contribution must reflect comprehension of content from weekly presentations and assigned readings. As such, you need to keep up with weekly content and other assigned tasks. *Be an active and prepared discussion participant!*

Assignments and Point System:

	Points:
Issue Papers (1 st 40 pts; 2 nd 60 pts)	100
Career Exploration	50
Canvas Discussion Participation	30
Mid-term Exam:	60
Final Exam	<u>60</u>
Total	300

Grading Scale

Grade	Point Percentage	Grade	Point Percentage
A	>94%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-94%	D	64-66%
B+	87-89%	D-	60-63%
B	84-86%	F	<60%
B-	80-83%		
C+	77-79%		
C	74-76%		
C-	70-73%		



Course Schedule

Week	Topics / Assignments	Action Items
Week 0/1 (September 21- October 2)	Course Introduction Ecosystem Services History of Natural Resource Use Canvas Forum: <i>introduce yourself, share interests</i>	<i>Contributions to initial Canvas discussion forum due by October 2</i>
Week 2 (October 3-9)	Defining Ecosystems Defining Ecoregions Assignment: <i>Your Meaningful Landscape</i>	
Week 3 (October 10-16)	Ecological Succession Natural Resource Economics Assignment: <i>Career Exploration Report</i>	<i>'Your Meaningful Landscape' paper due end of week 3 (October 16)</i>
Week 4 (October 17-23)	Is the Earth Full? (TED Talk) Forest Issues & Policy Canvas Forum: <i>Sharing Management Issues</i>	
Week 5 (October 24-30)	The Fracking Issue / Coal Bed Methane Managing Wildlife Assignment: <i>Resolving Management Issues</i>	
Week 6 (October 31 – November 6: Boof!)	Invasive Species Assignment: <i>Midterm Exam (weeks 1-5)</i>	<i>Midterm Exam</i> <i>Career Exploration Assignment due end of week 6 (November 6)</i>
Week 7 (November 7-13)	Wolves and their Ecological Effects Exploring Change in the Willamette Basin	
Week 8 (November 14-20)	Wildland Fire Recreation and Dam-Relicensing Canvas Forum: <i>Career Exploration Discussion</i>	

Week 9 (November 21-27)	Ecological Restoration Native American Perspectives	<i>Management Issue Paper due November 28 (accommodates Thanksgiving holiday)</i>
Week 10 (November 28-December 4)	The Value of Family Forests Coping with Climate Change Canvas Forum: Management Issue Resolutions	
Finals Week	Final Exam (exam date to be announced)	

Course Policies

Communication

Ground Rules for Productive Online Communication & Participation:

- **Online threaded discussions** are public messages, and all writings in this area will be viewable by the entire class or assigned group members. It is expected that each student will participate in a mature and respectful fashion.
- **Posting of personal contact information** is discouraged (e.g. telephone numbers, address, personal website address).
- **Pay close attention** to what your classmates write in their online comments. Ask clarifying questions when appropriate. These questions are meant to probe and shed new light, not to minimize or devalue comments. Reread your comments before you post them.
- **Disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.** Do not make sexist, racist, homophobic, or victim-blaming comments. These will not be tolerated.
- **Online Instructor Response Policy:** I will check email frequently, and try my best to respond to course-related questions within 48 hours.
- **Observation of "Netiquette":** All your online communications need to be composed with fairness, honesty and tact. Spelling and grammar are very important in an online course. What you put into an online course reflects on your level of professionalism. Here is a reference that discusses online etiquette:
 - Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>.
- Please check the Announcements area and the course syllabus before asking general course "housekeeping" questions (*i.e. how do I submit assignment 3?*). If you still cannot find an answer after doing so, then please contact me.

Technical Assistance

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, need assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Information Services (IS) Service Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-8787, or visit the [OSU IS Service Desk](#) online.

Makeup Exams

Makeup exams will be given only for missed exams excused **in advance** by the instructor. Excused absences *will not be given* for airline reservations or routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches). Excused absences will not be granted *after* the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.

Assignments & Late Policy

All assignments are to be completed and uploaded to the course Canvas site by their due date. Failure to do so will result in a 20% point reduction for that particular assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted more than 3 days beyond their due date.

Incompletes

Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (e.g. death in family, major illness or injury, birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 70% of the points possible (e.g. missed final exam). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term. Let me know as soon as possible.

Contacting Your Instructor

If you have questions related to course content or assignments, please contact your instructor using the email address and/or phone number provided on page 1. Don't be discouraged if you don't receive an immediate reply. I will try my best to return your email or phone call within 24-36 hours.

Reach Out for Success

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at oregonstate.edu/ReachOut. If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The need for direct, active and honest attention to equity, inclusivity and diversity is as urgent today as ever. Our world faces social, economic and environmental challenges of unprecedented complexity and scale. The College of Forestry is committed to addressing those challenges in the realm of forestry and natural resource management - whether it be through education, research or public engagement. We intend to draw fully and inclusively on the power and force of human imagination, experience and creativity to meet the needs of today's world.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Accessibility of Course Materials

All materials used in this course are accessible. If you require accommodations please contact [Disability Access Services \(DAS\)](#). Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this

course is offered, provides a [vendor statement](#) certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Expectations for Student Conduct

Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#).

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. Read items A-C below. For further information, contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2): *Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty*:

A) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.



B) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished

material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

C) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

Conduct in this Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the [university's regulations regarding civility](#).

Tutoring

[NetTutor](#) is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services, staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer with Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard allowing tutors and students to work on problems in real-time. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the NetTutor button in your course menu.

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching

Course *Student Evaluation of Teaching* (SET) results are extremely important, and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from SET multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online SET form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to "Student Online Services" to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.