FNRM 4521/5621

Field Timber Harvesting
and Road Planning

Syllabus

Summer 2014
FNRM 4521/5621 – Field Applications of Timber Harvesting and Road Planning
Summer 2014 Syllabus

Instructor
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Course Description
This class is intended for upper division students in the Forest Management and Planning Track within the Forest Resources curriculum and other students who are interested in forest management. It builds on the information that was presented in FNRM 3431/5431 (Timber Harvesting and Road Planning).

Objectives and Approach
The instructor and guest speakers will present material describing the process of planning and conducting timber harvesting and forest road design considering the economic, environmental, and social influences which impact those operations. The intent is to present and discuss those issues in the context of implementing natural resource management plans. Course emphasis is on providing field-based experiences with the various aspects of timber harvesting and road planning. As site and stand conditions, landowner objectives, regulations, and other factors vary across the landscape, there are a variety of approaches used to accomplish timber harvesting and road planning. The course will address many of the different methods, presenting more detail for some than others. Examples will tend to focus on Minnesota applications.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

✓ understand how to apply forest management guidelines, appraise a timber stand, and locate a forest road,
✓ develop a timber harvest plan for a family forest owner, and
✓ demonstrate your knowledge of the principles of timber sale design and road location through an oral presentation of the timber harvest plan to the family forest owner.

The class will use a variety of teaching strategies including lectures, guest presentations, field tours, discussions, and assignments.

Course Requirements
Students are responsible for all materials presented during lectures, field tours and field visits. Class attendance is not required or counted in the grade for the course. Hard hats (provided) must be worn during any field trip where machinery is present or as indicated by the instructor.

Course Weighting
The percentage distribution for each course activity is noted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 1: Roads field tour reflections (due June 3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 2: Timber sale appraisal (due June 4)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercise 3: Forest management guideline scenarios (due June 5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise 4: Timber sale design (due at time of class presentation)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grades
Grades in this course will be awarded according to the University of Minnesota’s Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy (http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html):
A: achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements
B: achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements
C: achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect
D: achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
F: represents failure and signifies that the work was either:
• completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit, or
• not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I” (Incomplete)

An Incomplete (I) will only be assigned due to extraordinary circumstances, such as prolonged illness, for a student who has successfully completed a substantial portion of the course's work with a passing grade but was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Assignment of an Incomplete first requires completion of the CFANS Agreement for Completion of Incomplete “I” Work between the instructor and student. The instructor will complete that Agreement and provide a copy to the student whenever there is an allowed plan to offer an incomplete grade. The form is available at http://www.cfans.umn.edu/prod/groups/cfans/@pub/@cfans/documents/asset/cfans-pol-incompletereport-form.docx. In no event will any such written agreement allow a period of time which is longer than six months from the end of the course (the date of the final exam) to complete the course requirements. An “I” grade will automatically lapse to an “F” at the end of the next semester of a student’s registration, unless the instructor submits a change of grade for the student.

Students taking this course using S/N grading must complete all assignments and earn a cumulative grade of C- or better to earn an S (Satisfactory); students earning a D+ or worse will receive a grade of N.

Grades will be assigned in terms of a percentage of possible points according to the following standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A–</td>
<td>90-92.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B–</td>
<td>80-82.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C–</td>
<td>70-72.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The instructor may choose to grade more generously, but will not raise the standards above those defined above. If at any time you have concerns about your grade, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor.

How to Calculate Your Grade
You can calculate your grade at any time by adding up all the points you received on your assignments to date and dividing that number by all the points you could have received on those assignments. If at any time you have concerns about your grade, please contact your instructor.

Grade Disputes:
Inquiries regarding any changes of grade should be directed to the instructor of the course; you may wish to contact the Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) in 211 Eddy Hall (624-7272) (http://www.sos.umn.edu/index.html) for assistance. To dispute the grade assigned to an assignment or a question on an exam, you must do so IN WRITING to your instructor within one day after the assignment has been returned. You must state what is to be reevaluated and include a specific rationale for why your answer is correct, or why your work deserves a higher grade. "I think I deserve a better grade" does NOT constitute an acceptable rationale. When considering a dispute, the instructor may choose to review grading on the entire assignment.
Extra Credit
There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Attendance
Attendance is not required and will not be taken in this course.

Absences
If you know in advance that you are going to be absent for any assignment due date, let the instructor know. You are responsible for documenting the legitimacy of any absence for it to be excused. Legitimate reasons for absence must be documented and may include:

- illnesses certified by Boynton Health Service or your family physician
- emergencies caused by a death or serious illness in your immediate family
- participation in intercollegiate athletic events or other University activities
- subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances

If you have a legitimate absence, the instructor will allow you to make up a missed exam or assignment and will also try to accommodate other rare scheduling conflicts you might have, provided that you notify your instructor of these in advance. Normally make-up work should be submitted within one week of the original due date. The instructor will work with you to develop a process and timeline for completing make-up work after an absence has been excused. Students who need to miss class to participate in field trips or other University-sanctioned events accept primary responsibility for subject matter and materials covered in their absence.

Make-up work for legitimate absences
Students shall not be penalized for absence due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, religious observances, and family emergency. Students are responsible for providing documentation to the instructor to verify the reason for each absence. In particular, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of such circumstances as far in advance as possible. A process and timeline for completing the make-up work will be developed in consultation with the student after the absence is excused.

University Policies

Student Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty
Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows (http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student Conduct Code.pdf):

Scholastic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.
Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask the instructor.

Sexual harassment
Sexual harassment by or toward a member of the University community is prohibited by Board of Regents policy. Complaints about sexual harassment should be reported to the University’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 419 Morrill Hall.

Classroom Conduct
All students at the University have the right to a civil, productive, and stimulating learning environment. In turn, instructors have a responsibility to nurture and maintain such an environment. Students who disrupt the educational process because of discourteous, threatening, harassing, or other aggressive behavior will be removed from class. As a student, you are expected to adhere to the University Student Conduct Code (http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf).

Accommodations for students with disabilities
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, DS encourages you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Additional information is available at the DS website http://diversity.umn.edu/disability.

Senate Academic Workload Policy
The University’s Workload Policy is accessible at: http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTWORK.html. According to that policy, for undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of three hours of learning effort per week (averaged over a full semester) necessary for an average student to achieve an average grade (a C) in the course. For example, an average undergraduate student taking a two credit course that meets for two hours a week should expect to spend an additional four hours a week on course work outside the classroom in order to get a C in that course. According to the Workload Policy, it is expected that the academic work required of Graduate School and professional school students will exceed three hours per credit per week.

Student Mental Health and Stress Management
As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/.
How to Format and Submit Assignments

Format
Unless otherwise noted (e.g., the computational part of assignments), all assignments must be typed, proofread, and spellchecked. The text must be single-spaced with one-inch margins and formatted in Times Roman 12-point font. Your pages must be numbered and stapled. Assignments that are not typed will not be accepted.

Submitting Assignments
Assignments must be typed, except for the computational part of problem sets. Not typing an assignment will result in a 20% penalty for that assignment. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted as printed hard copy by 8 AM on the due date. After 8 AM, late materials submitted for grading will face a 50% reduction in grade for every calendar day they are late, including days during the weekend. Anything which is not turned in within two calendar days of the due date will receive a grade of zero. While assignments can be e-mailed to the instructor to establish the time of submission, the instructor will not grade the assignment until a hard-copy is submitted.

How to Contact the Instructor

You are encouraged to initiate discussion and/or ask questions at any time during the class. Time will be available throughout the day and in the evenings for questions on course material.

Text

The following text will be used in FNRM 4521/5621. They are the same texts that were required for FNRM 3431/5431 (Timber Harvesting and Road Planning).

Primary course text – available through anyone who completed FNRM 3431/5431.

Course Packet Readings (Printed on blue paper and available at the Bookstore)


*Harvesting Systems and Equipment in British Columbia*, McDonald, A. J., British Columbia Ministry of Forests (Publisher). (Required text that is available in the bookstore and one copy is on two-hour reserve in the Natural Resources Library) (Available online at: [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/sil/sil468.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/docs/sil/sil468.htm))


*Timber sale and scaling manual*. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry. 383 p. (Available through the Instructor)