FOR440 Timber Stand Management / Service Learning

Instructor: Beth Dodson  
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Office Hours: W 9:00-10:30, F 9:00-10:00, by appointment/open door

Class Times:  
One 1-hour lecture (FOR 301): W 11:10 - 12:00  
Lab (FOR 206 or Field): W 12:10 – 6:00

*Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests*. Available from any DNRC or MSU Extension office.

Prerequisites: FOR 302 Forestry Mensuration  
FOR 341 Timber Harvesting and Roads  
FOR 347 Silviculture

1. Course Description:  
“The management and manipulation of the timber resource on private lands to reach multiple objectives, with a focus on the planning of forest operations.”  
These goals will be met through a hands-on, semester-long, group-based service learning project. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students’ understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

2. Course Learning Objectives:  
- Design and conduct a forest inventory.  
- Set specific management goals for a forest stand based on the overarching management goals of the community partner.  
- Design silvicultural and harvesting systems to meet various management goals.  
- Present a timber management plan and a timber sale bid package in writing and verbally to clients (community partners) and potential bidders.  
- Hone written and verbal communication skills.  
- Solidify your own professional and land ethic.

3. Course Policies:  
- All assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class unless otherwise specified. Late assignments will lose 10% of the potential points per day late.  
- All work must be neat, legible and complete.  
- All work will be submitted on-line through the class Moodle unless otherwise specified. Graded assignments will also be returned electronically. Use of “track changes” will greatly speed the return of resubmitted work.  
- While you are allowed to work with fellow students on individual assignments, all submitted assignments must represent your own individual work.
Group assignments may be resubmitted as many times as necessary to obtain the grade and quality of work desired.

Individual assignments may be resubmitted once within one week of when they are returned to students to receive up to ½ the missing points.

All course communication (announcements, assignments, schedule with due dates) will be posted on the course Moodle, available through the UMOnline home page. The course Moodle can be accessed from any computer with internet access.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

Important dates:
- September 4: Last day for students to add classes via CyberBear without consent of instructor.
- September 5: Beginning today all class registration adds must be done via the Override Form or an Electronic Override done through CyberBear. Consent of instructor is required.
- February 15: Last day to withdraw from the semester (drop all courses) with a partial refund.
- February 15: Last day to change grading option to or from audit.
- February 15: Last day to Buy or Refuse health insurance coverage or add clinical health fee.
- Up to October 28 (45th instructional day): Dropping a course requires a drop/add form with instructor and advisor signature. There is a $10 fee at the registrar's office. At this point in the semester students are only allowed to drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, or deciding you want to change majors are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop a class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so before October 28.

4. Grading: Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

   Grades will be based on both individual and group work assigned during the term. All work may be edited and resubmitted (see above). The standard +/- grading scale will be used. All efforts will be made to return graded work within one week of when it is turned in. Posted grades will be updated continuously.

   Individual writing assignments (4): 25%
   Group writing assignments: 65%
   Final oral field presentation: 10%
   Total: 100%

5. Schedule

   To be determined by the class on 9/4/13.