Title: Urban Forest Planning, Policy and Management

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: FOR 350 or HORT 350 (Urban Forestry)

Schedule Type: Ecampus. Approximately 120 hrs of instruction, activities, and assignments.

Instructor: Paul D. Ries, Instructor & Extension Specialist, OSU Dept. of Forest Ecosystems and Society. Phone: 503-945-7391, Email: paul.ries@oregonstate.edu

Course Description: Urban Forestry is the art, science, and practice of managing the urban forest – the planted landscape and native forest remnants left behind during development. The urban forest is managed for human benefit – to maximize the economic, environmental, and social benefits that trees and associated plants provide. The purpose of this course is to explore the biological, social, political, managerial, and administrative aspects of urban forestry. This is the final required course in a three course series for Natural Resources and Horticulture undergraduate students interested in an urban forestry option, but is also valuable for those who desire in-depth study of subjects related to managing urban natural resources and contemporary environmental issues at the graduate level.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Successful urban forestry programs are the result of thoughtful urban forest planning, deliberate urban forest management actions, and sound urban forestry policy. This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of what makes an urban forestry program successful, and how urban forest resources can be managed for the benefit of society. This course will help students be able to:

- Document the economic, ecological, and social values and benefits of urban forests in terms of cost/benefit analysis and public persuasion
- Identify and describe the various components of an effective municipal urban forestry program.
- Assess the technical, managerial, political, and administrative aspects of urban forestry programs,
- Demonstrate an understanding of how urban forest plans and policies are developed and implemented,
- Apply selected policy and management strategies to real-life urban forestry situations,
- Identify factors that influence management of urban forest ecosystems and understand several broad aspects of urban forestry theory and practice.

In addition the above items, Graduate level learning outcomes also include to:
- Critically analyze contemporary urban forest management issues or conflicts, and identify and communicate tools and strategies to address the situations,
- Articulate and evaluate urban forest management standards and practices,
- Synthesize and extrapolate this material to individual areas of interest, expertise, and graduate study.
FOR 455/555 and HORT 455/555
Course Syllabus

Learning Resources:

- **Required Readings:** One professional journal article and one other urban forestry reading will be assigned each week. One or more website visits are required each week. Expect 20+ pages of required reading per week.

- **Required Text:** None.

Evaluation of Student Performance:

**Grading Requirements** (UG=Undergraduate Students; Grad=Graduate Students)

1. **Discussion Board Participation**  
   UG – 15%  
   Grad – 10%  
   Each week’s content will include one or more discussion pages to further online learning from lectures or readings from the week. Everyone brings something to offer to the class, whether it is personal experience, insight into the readings, or a unique perspective. The instructor will reward active, informed participation in class discussions.

2. **Individual Assignments**  
   UG – 30%  
   Grad – 20%  
   Undergraduate students will complete three individual assignments: 1) attend a meeting of a local tree board, planning commission, or other deliberative body where tree issues are discussed, and provide a critique of it, 2) EITHER attend an urban forestry seminar or event (pre-approved by instructor) and provide a report on it, OR produce an urban forestry related educational product, and 3) write a two page essay on an urban forestry topic or issue from a list provided by the instructor. Graduate Students will complete assignments 1 and 2.

3. **Group Project**  
   UG – 25%  
   Grad – 20%  
   A class project will be assigned to introduce students to the collaborative nature of being an urban forestry professional. Students will work as a team in assigned roles to produce an urban forest management plan for a community. This activity will be graded with both an individual peer evaluated and a group component.

4. **Exams**  
   UG – 30%  
   Grad – 30%  
   One Midterm and one final exam will make up this grading component. The midterm will be an online exam. The final exam will be a “take-home format” - an essay assignment mailed to you two weeks prior to the due date. This will simulate an actual assignment you might receive if working as an urban forestry professional, so you may use all resources available to you, including class notes, lectures, and the Internet. Neither exam requires a proctor.

5. **Case Study (graduate only)**  
   Grad – 20%  
   Graduate Students will prepare a case study of an urban forest management issue and present it to the rest of the class in an online webinar format. This case study will include a literature review, situation analysis, and recommendations for resolution and further action.
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Grading Distribution:

A (940 - 1000), A- (900-939), B+ (870 - 899), B (830 - 869), B- (800 - 829), C+ (770 - 799), C (730 - 769), C- (700 - 729), D+ (670 - 699), D (630 - 669), D- (600 – 629), F (599 and lower)

Course Schedule – Winter Term

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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Urban Forest Planning Policy and Management (course overview, urban forestry players, research, resources, review of FOR 350 and HORT 350 concepts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Planning for Urban Forest Sustainability – Planning processes and plans (UF plan development, strategic planning, performance measures, program evaluation, public input)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>An Ecosystem Approach to the Urban Forest (Green Infrastructure, Ecosystem Management and Ecosystem Services)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Turning Urban Forestry Plans into Policy (Ordinances, Tree Politics, Legal Issues, Financing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Balancing Trees and Development – (Land Use, Zoning, Tree Preservation Ordinances, Urban/Rural Interface Issues, Forest Fragmentation, Native Forest Remnant Management) Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Urban Forestry Public Policy (Hazard Tree Risk Assessment, Public Safety, Storm Response, Pest outbreak response)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Urban Forest Assessment and Valuation (Inventory, Mapping, Cost/Benefit Analysis, Canopy Assessment, Tree Evaluation and Appraisal)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Managing the Relationship Between Trees and People - Tree Boards, Non-profit organizations, Citizen Involvement</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Municipal Urban Forestry; Student Team Presentations – managing municipal urban forestry programs; group project presentations; Graduate Student Presentations</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Connecting Urban Forestry to Societal Issues and Needs – Current trends and issues in the profession, needs analysis, public opinions and beliefs about trees, Communications and Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
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Course Delivery
This course will be delivered via Blackboard, your online learning community, where you will interact with your classmates and with me. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, tutorials, and syllabus; discuss issues; submit assignments; take quizzes; email other students and the instructor; participate in online activities; and display your projects. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, Blackboard and otherwise, see http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/technical-help.htm.

Each week you will have 6-8 assignments covering the topic of the week. These assignments will include:

- Video lectures
- A reading, typically from a professional journal
- One or more urban forestry websites for you to visit
- A discussion board
- A guest lecture or activity assignment
- A PowerPoint “lecture” from your instructor
- Other items such as; a longer video, a multi-media presentation, or an activity

Help With Writing
The Writing Center is part of the Academic Success Center and is a support service for students and faculty at Oregon State University. Its mission is to provide writing programs that enable students at all levels to function effectively, efficiently, and confidently in an academic environment. The Writing Center offers free help with any writing task at any stage of the writing process and is open to all OSU students, as well as to staff, faculty, and members of the Corvallis community. Writing assistants can help with all aspects of the writing process from brainstorming and organization to questions of grammar and usage. Call (541) 737-5640 for an appointment. Students may also submit their work-in-progress to the Center's Online Writing Lab (http://cwl.oregonstate.edu/owl.php).

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 737-4098."

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct, i.e., cheating policies http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm