



# STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

**Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture**  
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## **FORS 3110-001 and 3110-002: Field Silviculture, Summer 2023**

### **Course Details**

**Instructors:**

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Office hours for this week of field station will be whenever you can find us. Mornings before class, in the afternoon right after lecture, during van rides to field sites, or lunches are all good times to talk.

**Class Times:** Sunday, June 4 at 4:00pm – Friday, June 9

**Class Location:** See the tentative schedule below for meeting locations at the Forestry Building.

### **Course Description**

**FORS 3110: Field Silviculture** - One semester hour. Study of regeneration techniques, thinning and intermediate cultural operations. Required field trips. Prerequisite: FORS 1311, 1352, 2305, 2309, 2319, 2240, 2351, and GISC 2324. Students must have an overall grade point average of 2.0 at the end of the fall semester prior to attending field station. Course fee required. Summer only at forestry field station.

### **Program Learning Outcomes**

Forestry 3110 is a forestry core course required of all forestry majors and thus competency is required. A minimum grade of a “C” must be attained or the course will have to be repeated. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, per the BSF Program Matrix:

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology;
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

\*Items #1 - #4 above are required by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.

\*This is not a General Education Core Course

B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels					
Course	PLO 1 Forest Ecology & Biology	PLO 2 Forest Resource Measurement	PLO 3 Forest Resource Management	PLO 4 Forest Resource Policy, Economics, Administration	PLO 5 Oral & Written Communication Skills
FORS 3110	A	I	I	I	I

A – Advanced – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with transitional, high level topic-specific information, activities, and opportunities that enable the students to apply their critical thinking and tactical skills to resolved increasingly challenging strategic situations.

I – Intermediate – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with topic-specific information, concepts, applications, and lab activities that increase the students’ skills in making tactical implementation decisions relative to the expected outcomes.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, successful students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of stand dynamics, including concepts of stand structure, function, establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality (PLO 1, 2).
2. Describe forest stands in terms of structure and function (PLO 1, 2).
3. Relate current and future stand structural conditions to management actions required to meet landowner objectives (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).
4. Explain the ecological underpinnings for common establishment, intermediate, and regeneration treatments that comprise silvicultural systems (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4).
5. Communicate technical material clearly to a variety of audiences using correct terminology (PLO 5).

## Text and Materials

- No new textbooks are required. You should have already re-read and reviewed your FORS 2309 Ecology text and notes and your FORS 2319 Dendrology texts and notes.
- A hard hat (per college policy).
- Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.
- A clip board for taking notes in the field.
- A calculator.

Class materials may be posted to the SFA Silviculture site, found by googling 'SFA Silviculture' or going to <https://www.sfasilviculture.com/>. We do not plan to use Brightspace D2L.

## Supplemental Course Materials

Since this course was taught online in summer 2020 due to COVID, we now have a wealth of supplemental videos available online. These are not required for the course, but may supplement your learning for this week. Feel free to review them before, during, or after this week of field station to learn more about topics that interest you.

*SFA Field Silviculture YouTube Playlist:*

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYHwEvrJN8Uzf92cQr6wzj31B7s-A5bvp>

*David Schnake's 360 Degree Silviculture Video Playlists (highly recommended!):*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-OsqHp8bcgYgc2BmuOHjQw/playlists>

## Course Requirements

One written stand description is required for each stand as assigned by the instructors. Templates will be provided. A memo on the management of a stand for red-cockaded woodpeckers and a fuel loading technical report are also major assignments. There will be several quizzes or group exercises focusing on topics ranging from dendrology to silvopasture to silvicultural treatments for wildlife habitat management to mineland reclamation to pine plantation establishment prescriptions. Additionally, other assignments may be given. Although each of these will have a relatively low value, in combination, they will constitute an important part of your grade. All written assignments will be due as noted on the schedule below, unless otherwise indicated by the instructors.

## Grading Policy

Grades may be curved upward, but will not be curved downward. Professionals are expected to meet scheduled deadlines. **We will not accept assignments that are not turned in on time.**

Item	Percentage	Percent Grade	Letter Grade
Stand Descriptions	30%	>89.44%	A
RCW Memo	15%	79.45 – 89.44%	B
Fuel Loading Technical Report	15%	69.45 – 79.44%	C
So Many Dendro Quizzes!	15%	59.45 – 69.44%	D
Shortleaf Silviculture & Silvopasture Quiz	10%	<59.45%	F
WMA & Reclamation Silviculture Quiz	10%		
Herbicide Prescription	5%		
<b>COURSE GRADE</b>	<b>100%</b>		

University guidelines, as outlined in the Student Handbook, will be strictly adhered to with regard to cheating and plagiarism. Any occurrence of cheating will result in a grade of 0 for all involved parties.

## Attendance Policy

Failure to attend a daytime activity without prior approval of an excused absence will result in a 20% reduction of your total course grade. If you arrive after the vans have departed, you may not meet us in the field in your personal vehicle. Do not attempt to do so, as this violates University policy and you have already received the point deduction. Attending the daytime activity but failing to attend an afternoon class without prior approval of an excused absence will result in a 10% reduction of your total course grade. As stated above, we do not accept assignments late, so missing one class day could very easily result in you re-taking the course next summer. FORS 3110 is a forestry core class, meaning you need a 'C' or better to pass.

## Class Safety and Conduct Policy

Hardhats will be worn at all times that anyone is underneath tree-cover. Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for class. **Boots must be leather; no sneakers, light hikers, or any shoe with a mesh or cloth side or top.** If you are inappropriately dressed you will not be allowed in the vans, will receive a zero for that day's assignments, and incur the 20% course grade reduction (see attendance policy above). It is at the discretion of the instructor what appropriate dress for the field is. Please do not wear sandals, tennis-shoes, sneakers, crocs, flip-flops, slippers, etc. You may also require a jacket or rain gear and should always have plenty of drinking water with you. Make sure that you fill your water containers prior to departure each morning. We will go to the field regardless of weather conditions so come to class appropriately dressed.

## Student Academic Dishonesty Policy (4.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of

plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at <https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf>

### **Course Grades Policy (5.5)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy at <https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf>

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1)**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>

### **Responsible Use of Technology**

It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at <https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct-10.4.pdf>

## Tentative Schedule

<b>Sunday, June 4</b>	<b>EVENING LECTURE BEGINS AT 4:00 PM IN ROOM 117. DO NOT BE LATE!!!</b>
	An intro to the class, silviculture, stand descriptions, and the fuel loading exercise.
<b>Monday, June 5</b>	<b>VANS LEAVE AT 7:00 AM, MEET AT VANS</b>
	We will evaluate stands in Angelina National Forest (Zavalla/Townsend areas), with particular emphasis on the silviculture of longleaf pine, fuel loading, and management for red-cockaded woodpeckers. Pole classification will be conducted. Be prepared to complete stand descriptions and dendro quizzes. Dendro quizzes for days.
	Afternoon lecture 15 minutes after we return on agroforestry / fuel loading in room 117.
<b>Tuesday, June 6</b>	<b>VANS LEAVE AT 8:00 AM, STAND DESCRIPS DUE TO STOVALL BY 7:50 AM AT VANS</b>
	We will examine shortleaf pine silviculture on the Fairchild State Forest with Jason Ellis of TFS (ATCOFA alumnus). We will also tour a silvopasture research and demonstration site near Carthage and possibly another at the SFA Beef Farm. Who knows, maybe we some dendro quizzes? Be prepared in the field for a quiz on the day.
	Afternoon lecture 15 minutes after we return on disturbances in room 117.
<b>Wednesday, June 7</b>	<b>VANS LEAVE AT 7:00 AM, RCW MEMO &amp; FUEL LOADING REPORT DUE TO OSWALD BY 6:50 AM AT VANS</b>
	We will evaluate stands near Milam with an emphasis on old-growth forest structure, stand dynamics, cove hardwoods, and basic compass and pacing. Anticipate about 2.5 miles of hiking in the humid heat through thick brush on steep terrain. We get lost 90% of the time. Bottomland hardwood stand evaluation and Baker-Broadfoot site classification will be conducted in the Pisgah area in the afternoon. There will be many mosquitos of impressive size. Be prepared to complete stand descriptions and dendro quizzes. Free limitless dendro quizzes. So many dendro quizzes. BRING LOTS OF WATER! Opportunity to swim in Toledo Bend Reservoir (but no restrooms or facilities).
	Afternoon lecture 15 minutes after we return on mineland reclamation in room 117.
<b>Thursday, June 8</b>	<b>VANS LEAVE AT 6:30 AM, STAND DESCRIPS DUE TO STOVALL BY 6:20 AM AT VANS</b>
	In the morning we will tour prescribed fire, thinning, mulching, and underplanting silvicultural treatments for wildlife management at Gus Engling and Richland Creek WMA's with TPWD staff Matt Symmank, Ryan Assenheimer (ATCOFA alumni), Kyle Brunson, and Kyle Hand. In the afternoon we will tour hardwood reclamation for wildlife management at Luminant's Big Brown and Turlington mines with John Kent. Dendro quizzes in hardwood plantations? What might they have planted? Be prepared in the field for a quiz on the day.
	Afternoon activity 15 minutes after we return on site prep in room 117.
<b>Friday, June 9</b>	<b>VANS LEAVE AT 7:00 AM</b>
	We will spend the day examining intensive silviculture, including mechanical site preparation on intensively managed corporate lands. Will Muncrief, John Hamilton, Jered Rhodes, Austin Morrison (ATCOFA alumni all), and others of TTG Forestry will be our hosts for most of the day. Plan to take notes sitting in a sun-drenched, scorching-hot clearcut for 1.5 hours. Several short prescriptions and quizzes may be given. If we luck out there could even be more dendro quizzes. Lunch at Beef Creek Falls, bring swimwear & towel if you want to swim (FYI: there are no restrooms or other facilities).