



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

**Arthur Temple College of
Forestry & Agriculture**
P. O. Box 6109, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

FORS 4327-001: Regional Silviculture, Fall 2026

Course Details

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Stovall

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Office: 417 Liberal Arts North

Phone: (936) 468-2127

Office Hours: By appointment

Generally, I maintain an open-door policy, and keep a schedule posted by my door. Please feel free to stop by my office whenever. If you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by email. I check email frequently and reply as soon as possible, within 24 hours M - F at most.

Class: 10:00am – 10:50am Monday, Wednesday, Friday in Human Services 317

Course Description

FORS 4327. Regional Silviculture - 3 semester hours, 3 hours lecture per week. Multiple use management of the major forest types in the United States. Prerequisite: FORS 3347 or permission of instructor.

Program Learning Outcomes

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 4327	A	A	A	A	A

A – Advanced – FORS 4327 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 resolve increasingly challenging strategic situations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, successful students will:

1. Explain how silviculture varies in different regions of North America (PLO 1-4).
2. Describe the various multiple use management techniques utilized across North America, and the various challenges managers in each region face (PLO 3).
3. Compare forestry within the East Texas/Southeastern United States region to other regions of North America (PLO 2-4).
4. Identify current problems/trends in silviculture across North America (PLO 3-4).
5. Communicate silvicultural issues to other foresters (PLO 4-5).

Text and Materials

This course will rely on Open Educational Resources (OER) and other materials that will be freely available to students. These materials may be hosted on D2L Brightspace, although most will be available on the course website.

Course Website

Course materials will generally be available on the silviculture course website, which can be found at: www.SFAsilviculture.com. Some materials may be found at: www.silvicultureinstructors.com.

Course Requirements

~~As this is the first semester this instructor is teaching the course, students and the instructor will work together in the first week of class to determine the nature of assignments, due dates, and grading system for the course. The syllabus will be updated within the first two weeks of the semester to provide a record of our decisions.~~ The instructor reserves the right to ensure the course remains rigorous and fair; in compliance with all SFA policies, UT System policies, and various state laws; and to ensure learning outcomes can be met by the nature of the assignments and all assessment procedures.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be closed-book, closed-note, with no electronic resources allowed. They will be given in class on Wednesdays, and generally will contain questions about recent material in the course. Questions will be short-answer, with no grading for spelling or grammar provided the answer is discernable. There will be six questions, worth two points each, with partial credit possible on each. Each quiz will be worth 10 points, so it is possible to earn bonus points over the 10 points. There will be 11 quizzes given over the semester, and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Presentation

Each student will give one presentation over a region of their choice (pending any resolutions required for popular regions selected by multiple students). It will be a teaching-style presentation, evaluated primarily for content (accuracy, appropriate coverage, depth and breadth), style, and whether it met the goal of approximately 30 minutes in time (including a few minutes for Q&A). Videos may be used, but should generally not exceed approximately 2 minutes in length.

Journal Club

Each student will lead a 45-minute discussion over a scientific paper of interest for their assigned region (the same region as the presentation). Papers must be approved by the instructor, and should be provided to the class at least two weeks prior to the journal club. Evaluation will be for appropriate

coverage of the paper, asking strong questions, and leading the discussion. Participation points are not awarded for discussion, but participation by all classmates is expected.

Grades

The entire class may be curved at the discretion of the instructor, but it will not be curved down. No curve is guaranteed. Other bonus opportunities may be offered to the entire class at the instructor's discretion.

Assignment	Value	Quantity	Total
Quizzes	10 pts	10	100 pts
Presentation	50 pts	1	50 pts
Journal Club	50 pts	1	50 pts
Total			200 pts

Grade	Minimum Pts
A	179.45
B	159.45
C	139.45
D	119.45
F	0

Course Topics & Schedule

A separate schedule sheet will be provided. It will be updated as needed throughout the semester.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Attendance will be taken within the first 5 minutes of all classroom sessions. An unexcused lecture absence will result in a grade of zero for any assignments missed. It is university policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies and student participation in university-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed prior to the absence. Class session attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences may result in lowered grades on individual assignments.

Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy (04-106)

[The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities. Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam. Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Course Grades Policy (02-206)

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/docs/hops/02-206.pdf>

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Policy (01-302)

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/>

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. 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools Policy for Regional Silviculture

My prompt for Google Gemini 3 Family (free): Generate a policy on AI usage for a syllabus in a Regional Silviculture class. Assignments could include quizzes, tests, essays, technical reports, presentations, and leading class discussions. Generally, allow the use of AI provided that students document when AI is used, which tools were used, and how they were used. This may include providing prompts and responses.

Gemini's output, edited by me. This is our course policy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools—such as generative text models, coding assistants, and slide creation tools—are increasingly common in professional forestry and natural resource management. In Regional Silviculture, you are encouraged to explore and responsibly utilize AI to support your learning, research, and technical writing. However, AI tools are assistive technology, not a replacement for silvicultural expertise, critical thinking, or field-based ecological reasoning. You remain 100% accountable for the factual accuracy, ecological sound, and technical integrity of all work submitted.

Assignment Category	AI Permissibility	Guidelines & Restrictions
Quizzes & Examinations	Prohibited	Assessments test core comprehension of regional forest types, stand dynamics, site quality, and silvicultural systems. AI tools may not be accessed during exams or quizzes.
Technical Reports & Silvicultural Prescriptions	Permitted with Disclosure	AI may be used for processing data scripts (e.g., R, Excel), organizing report structures, and proofreading text. AI cannot be used to fabricate inventory data, simulate site assessments without actual data, or replace your own silvicultural prescriptions.
Essays & Research Papers		AI may assist with outlining, brainstorming, and refining sentence clarity. You must independently read, verify, and cite all primary peer-reviewed silvicultural literature. Beware of hallucinated citations.
Presentations & Visuals		AI can be used to generate slide structures, outline talking points, or assist in graphic formatting. Visuals or figures generated by AI must be explicitly labeled as such. Make sure your slides don't stink as a result of AI use.
Leading Class Discussions		AI may be used to brainstorm discussion questions, analyze case study scenarios, or compile background context. You are expected to master the material sufficiently to lead live discussion without relying on AI outputs.

What Must Be Included in the Disclosure:

- Tools Used: Name and version of the platform (e.g., ChatGPT-4o, Claude 3.5 Sonnet, Copilot).
- Scope of Use: Clear explanation of where and how AI was incorporated (e.g., "Used to brainstorm initial outline for Section 2," "Used to debug R script for inventory volume calculations," "Used to edit drafted paragraphs for conciseness").
- Prompts and Outputs: Include the exact prompts submitted and the corresponding responses generated (attached as an appendix or linked transcript).

Academic Integrity, Verification, and Student Responsibility

- Hallucination & Accuracy: AI models frequently invent citations, misinterpret silvicultural guidelines, or state ecological errors as facts. Submitting hallucinated sources or inaccurate statements will result in point deductions.
- Plagiarism & Originality: Copying and pasting raw AI-generated text without proper disclosure or synthesis constitutes academic dishonesty. Submissions must reflect your own voice, analytical reasoning, and understanding of regional silvicultural practices.
- Data Integrity: Real or provided forest inventory data must never be altered or synthesized by AI to produce misleading results.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students' overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office
Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
mdos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub "The Hub"
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include: Health Services, Counseling Services, Student Outreach and Support, Food Pantry, Wellness Coaching, Alcohol and Other Drug Education

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

