

SYLLABUS  
FO 4423/6423- PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES  
Spring 2007

TIME: 9:30-10:45 T-TH; 1:00-5:00 F

PLACE: Thompson Hall Auditorium

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ian A. Munn Office: 349 Thompson Hall  
Phone: 325-4546 email: imunn@cfr.msstate.edu  
Office Hours: 1:30pm - 3:30pm T-Th  
(Please make an appointment whenever possible)

PREREQUISITES:

FO 4323 is the prerequisite for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will work in teams of two or three members. Each team will develop a forest management plan for property owned by a local forest landowner. Very little new information, tools or skills will be presented in class. Instead, students are expected to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired in all previously completed course work. The course provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned and their ability to integrate and apply their education and professional training to a real world problem.

GRADING:

Teams will be graded on how well they demonstrate the breadth and depth of their professional competence in required and optional assignments:

**Required Assignments:**

**Statement of Landowner Characteristics and Objectives (10 points):**

The team will submit a description of the landowner(e.g. landowner characteristics, particularly those relevant to the management of the property such as family status, employment status, and recreational pursuits) the landowner's mailing address, phone number and email address, a preliminary map of the landowner's property, a brief history of the property, and a detailed list of the landowner's objectives for the forest property. These objectives will serve as the underlying framework for the management plan. Students should encourage the landowner to provide objectives that require active management of both the pine and hardwood timber and include at least one wildlife species.

### **Inventory Proposal (40 points):**

Each team will be assigned a forested property to inventory. Teams will conduct a cursory exam of the property to generate preliminary data to be used in the development of a detailed inventory proposal. Each team will submit an inventory proposal, which includes a detailed cruise plan designed to achieve a sampling error of +/- 10% of the total merchantable volume for merchantable stands (combined) and +/- 20% of the mean number of trees in sub-merchantable stands. The instructor must approve the inventory proposal **before** the team begins the inventory of the assigned property.

### **Forest Inventory Report (60 points):**

After their inventory proposal has been approved, each team will inventory their assigned property and report their findings.

### **Forest Management Plan (60 points):**

Each team will submit a forest management plan based on the characteristics and objectives of their landowner and a forest inventory of the property. The plan will include, as a minimum,

1. a summary of the landowner objectives,
2. a detailed description of the property
3. an appraisal of the current market value of the property,
4. a narrative description of how the objectives can be met,
5. a detailed set of management prescriptions designed to achieve the objectives,
6. a financial analysis,
7. control procedures and
8. forest inventory projections for key points throughout the planning period based on the initial forest inventory and subsequent management practices.

(See the attached outline for more detailed instructions)

### **Presentation of Management Plan (30 points):**

Each team will present their plan to the class, interested faculty members, and their landowner at the end of the semester. The presentation must summarize the key elements of the plan. All team members must participate in the presentation. Audio-visual aids are strongly recommended. Students will also be required to evaluate presentations by other teams.

Presentations are scheduled for the last two lectures (**April 19 and 24**) and lab (**April 20**) before exams. The order of presentation will be randomly determined.

**Additional Required Assignment for FO 6423 Students (20 pts.):**

In order to fulfill the extra requirements for a 6000 level course, each FO 6423 student is required to submit a written report (10-20 pages) addressing a topic pertinent to forest management and planning for NIPF landowners.

**Optional Assignments:**

**Registered Foresters Exam: (20 points possible:** percentage correct x 20. Points awarded for passing grades only.) Students must schedule exam times with Mrs. Kathie Parker, Blackjack Log Cabin. Phone: 325-2772.

**Project Learning Tree Workshop: (10 points for successfully completing the workshop)** Scheduled for Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm, Tully Auditorium. Students must notify the instructor **in writing** or by email by class time, January 19, 2007 if they wish to attend the Project Learning Tree Workshop.

**Tree Farm Inspectors Training Course: (10 points for successfully completing the course)** Scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Tully Auditorium. Students must notify the instructor **in writing** or by email by class time, January 19, 2007 if they wish to attend the Tree Farm Inspectors Training Course.

Course grades will be awarded as follows:

<u>FO 4423</u>	<u>FO 6423</u>
A - 190 points and above	A – 210 points and above
B - 160-189 points	B - 180-219 points
C - 140-159 points	C - 150-179 points
D - 120-139 points	D - 130-149 points
F - below 120 points	F - below 130 points

Team members will evaluate each other’s contribution to the project. Each team member’s project grade will be adjusted according to the evaluation received from the other team members.

Assignments are due at a specific date and time. The penalty for late submission is ten percent of the possible score **per calendar day**. All reports must be typed and double-spaced. All required assignments must be submitted. Any team that does not submit all required assignments will receive an F for the course.

Students who sign up for Project Learning Tree and Tree Farm Inspector Training are expected to attend. Those who sign up but do not attend will be penalized 10 points. The penalty will be waived if the student presents a valid written excuse to the instructor **before** the scheduled workshop day.

### ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory during presentations. Absenteeism during this portion of the course will result in a **20 point per absence penalty**.

### RESERVE MATERIAL:

Example management plans and Mississippi's Best Management Practices Handbooks are on reserve in the Switzer Reading Room.

### ASSISTANCE FROM THE INSTRUCTOR:

The intent of this course is to provide students an opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge and skills acquired in all previously completed course work to a real world problem. Students are expected to respond in a professional manner. A satisfactory management plan will require hard work. Teams are advised to keep the instructor informed as to their progress. Don't hesitate to discuss any problems that arise with the instructor immediately. Students are welcome to drop by the office during the scheduled class, lab and office hours.

For questions on subject matter covered in other classes, students should first review their class notes and/or appropriate textbooks. If that fails, direct your questions to that course's instructor.

### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

The maximum sanctions available to the course instructor will be imposed upon any student found guilty of academic misconduct. What constitutes academic misconduct and the maximum sanctions are described in the University's Academic Operating Policy AOP 12.07 - Academic Misconduct and can be found on Mississippi State University's web page: <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/mainindex.html> under Student Affairs – Code of Student Conduct.

### COURSE OUTLINE:

(Note: This course does not hold regularly scheduled classes. Scheduled classes and associated contact hours are indicated by asterisk. For the remainder of the course, the topics and contact hours listed represent activities that students will undertake in completing the required assignments.

- I. Basics of Planning – 3 contact hours\*
  - Generic Management Plans and Planning
  - Forest Management Plans

- II. Landowner Characteristics and Objectives – 2 contact hours
  - Landowner interviews
  - Development of preliminary property description and maps
  
- III. Inventory Report – 14 contact hours
  - Preliminary cruise
  - Assessment of necessary cruise intensity in light of preliminary cruise results
  - Inventory proposal
    - Required cruise intensity
    - Plot type and location
    - Product specifications
    - Species list
    - Data requirements
  - Final Inventory
    - Inventory cruise
    - Stand delineation and mapping
    - Compilation of cruise data at stand, forest-type and property levels
    - Assessment of statistical accuracy
    - Assessment of timber, wildlife, and recreational values
  
- IV. Management Plan – 20 contact hours
  - Development of optimal forest structure in light of landowner objectives
    - Optimal rotation age
      - Assessment criteria – financial and/or biological
    - Optimal forest composition by stand type and age class structure
    - Management units
      - Unit specific objectives
      - Location
  - Development of optimal transition management
    - Harvest Scheduling
    - Non-timber considerations
    - Constraints – legal, social, biological, operational
  - Economic Assessment
    - Current property value
    - Cash flow from prescribed activities
    - Value of property under optimal forest structure
    - Projected profits/opportunity costs
  - Development of Work Plan
    - Schedule of activities
    - Activity specifications (e.g., residual basal area, seasonal constraints, etc.)
  - Plan for Monitoring and Evaluation
    - Assessment of ongoing activities
      - Required inspections and associated protocol and scheduling
    - Evaluation Criteria
      - Compliance with instructions
      - Achieving intended outcomes

Procedures for Plan Modification

V. Presentation of Plans – 6 contact hours\*

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE – 2007

January 9	Course Introduction Discussion of Landowner Objectives and Introduction to Management Plans
January 11	Introduction to Management Plans (continued)
January 12	Student Questions; Assign Landowners/Property; Team Leaders Sign Out Cruising Equipment; Cursory Cruise and Inventory Instructions
January 19	Sign up for Project Learning Tree, Tree Farm Inspector Course
January 26	Landowner Objectives Due
February 9	Inventory Proposal Due (Strongly recommend earlier submission.)
February 10	Project Learning Tree (all day Saturday)
March 9	Inventory Reports Due Team Leaders Return Cruising Equipment Topic and Preliminary Literature Review for Graduate Report Due
March 5	Graduate Report Topic Due
March 12-19	Spring Break
To Be Arranged	Registered Forester's Exam
March 20, 22	Review of Management Plan Components (Optional)
April 2	Tree Farm Inspectors Short Course (all day Saturday)
April 13	Management Plans Due
April 19-24	Team Presentations , Graduate Report Due

**Extra lectures or labs may be scheduled during the semester. If so, the instructor will notify students in advance via email at their university email address. Students are expected to check on a daily basis.**