

**FO 4353 / 6353 — FORESTRY LAW
Distance**

SYLLABUS ☼ DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY ☼ COLLEGE OF FOREST RESOURCES ☼ MISSISSIPPI
STATE UNIVERSITY

Instructor

Dr. Changyou “Edwin” Sun
325-7271, 363 Thompson Hall, csun@cfr.msstate.edu
MW 2:00-2:45 PM (via email or chatroom)

Course Description

Prerequisite for this course is junior standing or consent of instructor. Three-hour lecture. This course focuses on the legal environment of forestry. Law is a body of rules that governs the conduct of people and their affairs. A forest manager’s work can be affected by law in various ways. This course covers both the theories and fundamentals of business and environmental laws related to forestry and professional practices.

Course Objectives

- By the end of the course, students will understand
- the major stakeholders in forest resource management;
 - the definition and classification of law, and the American judicial system;
 - major laws related to forestry (e.g., administrative law, property law, tort law, taxation law, and contract law)

Required Textbooks

Eshee, W.D., P. Liddell, and G.J. Liddell. 2005. *The Legal Environment of Business*. 2nd Edition. Pearson Custom Publishing, Boston, Massachusetts. 559 pages.

Sun, C. 2009. Case Studies and Reading Materials. 153 pages.

Other reading materials will be assigned in class or posted in MyCourses.

Grading and Evaluation

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Online 1 st Exam	25%	20%
Online 2 nd Exam	25%	20%
Online Final Exam	35%	35%
Online Case Studies	15%	25%

Final determination of letter grades will be based on the following scale:

A: 90.0-100% B: 80.0-89.9% C: 70.0-79.9% D: 60.0-69.9% F: <60.0%

Notes on Lectures and Grading

1. **Lecture:** Lectures are primarily based on assigned materials. Microsoft PowerPoint slides will be posted on MyCourses. You are strongly encouraged to take good notes on the material.
2. **Examination:** The coverage of the 1st and 2nd exam will be announced in MyCourses. The final exam will be comprehensive and will also be online. You will be given a specific time frame from which to take your exam. If you are unable to take it during this specified time you must make arrangement with the instructor. If needed, make-up exam will be dealt with on a case by case.
3. **Case studies:** Topics and deadlines will be announced in MyCourses. Send your answer sheets by email. No late answers will be accepted unless there are legitimate reasons and evidences. If a student misses a case study with a legitimate excuse, the student must give the instructor evidences of the absence and his/her answer sheets for the case study within four days. If a student misses a case study without a legitimate excuse, the student will receive zero for that case study.

Responsibilities

Student:

1. Read syllabus and other materials provided by instructor;
2. Participate in online discussions, review the lectures and take good notes;
3. Review notes periodically and ask questions if necessary;
4. Learn (rather than memorize) the material presented by the instructor;
5. Prepare for case studies and participate in online discussion;
6. Pass exams.

Instructor:

1. Teach the course in a clear and understandable manner to encourage learning;
2. Answer questions related to the course;
3. Provide opportunities to practice methods covered by lectures;
4. Accurately assess and report the level of understanding achieved by each student in the course.

Attendance

The official code of class attendance for the University is documented in the Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP 12.09) and apply to online learning as well. Upon registration, the student accepts the responsibility of attending all classes and doing any work the instructor may prescribe. When absence from class is essential, the student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for absence. The student is also responsible for making arrangements that are satisfactory to the instructor in regard to work missed. These arrangements should be made prior to the absence when possible. Among the reasons absences are considered excused by the university are the following:

- Participation in an authorized university activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

It is the student's responsibility to secure documentation of an illness from a physician. The documentation must contain the date and time the student sought treatment. Based upon the documentation, the instructor will decide whether makeup work will be allowed.

Academic Dishonesty

MSU Honor Code: "As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."

The official code of student conduct for the University is documented by the *Bulldog Handbook*. Several examples are listed in the handbook that illustrates the kinds of activities considered to be "academic misconduct" by the University. These include, but are not limited to:

- Using unauthorized materials (crib notes, books, etc.) as an aid during an examination;
- Looking at or using information from another person's exam, report, or assignment;
- Providing assistance to, or receiving assistance from, another person in any manner prohibited by the instructor;
- Possessing or providing an examination or assignment, or any part thereof, at any time or in any manner not authorized by the instructor;
- Taking a quiz, examination, or similar evaluated assignment for another person; or utilizing another person to take a quiz, examination, or similar assignment in place of oneself;
- Submitting any course materials or activities not the student's own, allowing such a submission to be made for oneself, or making such a submission for another;

- Using the ideas, organization, or words from a book, article, computer file, or other source in any assignment without giving proper credit following accepted citation rules (plagiarism).

Sanctions for academic misconduct include a grade of “F” in the course and suspension from the University.

Students with Disabilities

If a student has a disability and desires any assistance devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in any activities associated with this course, please contact me, or call 325-0928 during normal business hours, as soon as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations.

Topics:

Fundamentals of Forestry (1.5 contact hours)
Meaning of Nature of Law (1.5 contact hours)
American Judicial System (1.5 contact hours)
Civil Trial System (1.5 contact hours)
Tort Law and Business Liability (3 contact hours)
Contract law (3 contact hours)
Property Law (3 contact hours)
Business Organization (1.5 contact hours)
Taxation Law (3 contact hours)
Case studies (10 studies, 1.5 contact hours each; 15 contact hours)
Exams (3 exams, 2 contact hours each; 6 contact hours)
Case study discussion boards (5; 1 contact hour each; 5 contact hours)

Total contact hours: 45.5

Reading Materials
(Subject to updating)

Eshee, W.D., P. Liddell, and G.J. Liddell. 2005. *The Legal Environment of Business*. 2nd Edition. Pearson Custom Publishing, Boston, Massachusetts. 559 pages.

Section 1. Fundamentals of Forestry

1. Daniels, B. 2002. Mississippi Forest Facts. One page summary by Mississippi Forestry Association.
2. Greene, W.D., B.D. Jackson and J.D. Culpepper. 2001. Georgia's Logging Businesses, 1987 to 1997. *Forest Products Journal* 51 (1): 25-28.
3. Mehmood, S.R. and D. Zhang. 2001. Forest Parcelization in the United States - a Study of Contributing Factors. *Journal of Forestry* 99 (4): 30-34.

Section 3. American Judicial Systems

4. Mersky, R.M. and D.J. Dunn. 2002. Fundamentals of Legal Research. Chapter 3 Court Reports (P. 21 – 39). Foundation Press, New York.

Section 6. Contract Law

5. Bowers, S. 2005. Contracts for woodland owners and Christmas tree growers. Oregon State University. 27 pages.

Section 9. Taxation Law

6. Haney, H.L., Jr., W.L. Hoover, W.C. Siegel, and J.L. Greene. 2001. Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax. Agriculture Handbook 718. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.