

FO 4413 / 6413

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

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

Instructor

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MW 2:00-2:45 PM (office hour, or by appointment)

Course Description

Prerequisite for this course is senior standing or consent of instructor. Three hour lecture. This course focuses on public policies of natural resources in the United States and briefly in the world. Policy process will be discussed in order to help conceptualize how policy is made. Participants in the policy process will be examined. Finally, various programs related to federal, state, private, and global natural resources policies will be scrutinized. This integration of process, participants, and programs should help students understand how public values and opinions about natural resources have been formed and developed into public programs.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will understand

- the policy process for natural resources management,
- the participants in the policy process,
- various polices and laws for federal, state, and private natural resources, and
- some global forest policy issues.

Required Textbooks

Cubbage, F.W., J. O’Laughlin, and C.S. Bullock III. 1993. *Forest Resource Policy*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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

Grading and Evaluation

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Online 1 st Exam	20%	20%
Online 2 nd Exam	20%	20%
Online Final	30%	30%
Online Quizzes	10%	5%
Term Paper	20%	25%

Final grade determination 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 the assigned materials. Microsoft PowerPoint slides will be posted in MyCourses. You are **STRONGLY** encouraged to take good notes.
2. **Exam:** 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. **Quiz:** Quizzes will be posted in MyCourses and you will have a specified time to take them. Missed quizzes can not be made up no matter what the reason is. If a student misses a quiz with a legitimate excuse, that quiz will be excluded in the final calculation for that student. The student must give the instructor evidences within four days. If a student misses a quiz without a legitimate excuse, the student will receive zero for that quiz.

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. Pass quizzes and exams and write a term paper.

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 applies to distance students 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, paper, 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.

Term Paper

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Topic Selection

Except the issue of forest fire, you can choose **any topic** related to **natural resources policy** for your term paper. The reason of excluding forest fire is that too many term papers have been written about this topic in the past. You are encouraged to discuss your topic selection with me if you feel uncertain. Some examples are listed below for your consideration. However, you do not need to constrain your selection by them.

- Best Management Practices in forestry: implementation and impact
- Institutional innovation to reduce the negative impacts from forest fragmentation
- Participation in governmental cost-share programs by non-industrial private forest landowners
- Possible substitution between public financial assistance and private investment in forestry
- The pattern of increasing recreational activities nationwide and the driving factors
- The impact of increasing non-timber outputs from forests
- Hunter's willingness to pay for leased forest lands
- Policies that motivate NIPF landowners to participate in wildlife-based enterprises
- Risk and liability of landowners in providing fee-access recreation services
- Impact of increasing appeals on forest planning and management of national forests
- Influence of protecting endangered species on forest management
- Impact of protecting endangered species on timber supply and market integration
- Increasing state regulation of forest practices
- Increasing merger and acquisitions of forest firms in recent years and its impact
- Why U.S. attracted limited foreign direct investment in the forest products industry
- Premium for certified wood products
- Forest certification and forest management

Format and Other Requirements

1. The term paper must be typed and submitted via MyCourses.
2. It should be at least four pages long for undergraduates and six pages for graduates.
3. It needs to be formatted into double space, 12 Times New Roman, and one inch margin.
4. It should follow the style of a standard research paper (e.g., *Journal of Forestry*).
5. For undergraduates, at least three references are required, and among them, at least one is from peer-reviewed journals (e.g., *Journal of Forestry*, *Forest Science*). For graduate students, the corresponding numbers are six and three.

Evaluation

Format	10% of the score for term paper
Grammar	10%
Analysis and Content	80%

Natural Resources Policy Topics:

- Forest Resources and Public Policy (1.5 contact hours)
- Policy Processes (4 lectures, 1.5 contact hours each; 6 contact hours)
- Participants (5 lectures, 1.5 contact hours each; 7.5 contact hours)
- Major Federal and State Policies (5 lectures, 1.5 contact hours each; 7.5 contact hours)
- Issues in Private Forestry (5 lectures, 1.5 contact hours each; 7.5 contact hours)
- Global Policy Issues (2 lectures, 1.5 contact hours each; 3 contact hours)
- **Online Exams** (3 exams, 2 contact hours each; 6 contact hours)
- **Online Quizzes** (Five 10 minute quizzes; 1 contact hour each; 5 contact hours)
- **Term Paper** (2 contact hours)

Total contact hours: 46

Reading Materials

(Subject to updating)

Section 17. Forest Fragmentation

- Daniels, B. 2002. Mississippi Forest Facts. Mississippi Forestry Association. One page.
- 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.
- Londo, A.J. and D.L. Grebner. 2004. Economics of scale and forest management in Mississippi. Proceedings of the 12th biennial southern silvicultural research conference, Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-71. Asheville, NC: USDA, Forest Service.

Section 18. Public Assistance for Private Owners

- Royer, J.P. 1987. Determinants of reforestation behavior among southern landowners. *Forest Science* 33(3): 654-667.

Section 19. Forest Certification

- Fanzeres, A. and K.A. Vogt. 2000. Roots of forest certification: its developmental history, types of approaches, and statistics. In *Forest Certification: Roots, Issues, Challenges, and Benefits*, ed., K.A. Vogt, B.C. Larson, J.C. Gordon, D.J. Vogt, and A. Fanzeres. CRC Press, Washington, D.C.
- Sasser, E.N. 2003. Gaining leverage: NGO influence on certification institutions in the forest products sector. In *Forest Policy for Private Forestry: Global and Regional Challenges*, ed., L. Teeter, B. Cashore, and D. Zhang.

Section 20. U.S. and Canada Softwood Lumber Trade

- Gorte, R.W. and J. Grimmett. 2003. Lumber imports from Canada: issues and events. CRS Issue Brief for Congress. 11 pages.

Others

- Cubbage, F.W. and D.H. Newman. 2006. Forest Policy Reformed: A United States Perspective. *Forest Policy and Economics* 9(3): 261-273.