Forest & Wildlife Ecology 550 - Forest Ecology

Section 001/002 – Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30-12:45/1:00-2:15, Animal Science 204

[The lab, FWE 551, is a separate class (M or T at 2:30 in Russell Labs A120) with a separate syllabus.]

Instructor: Phil Townsend, ptownsend@wisc.edu, office: Russell Labs A125

office hours: by appointment is preferred, Mondays 1-2 PM, Tuesdays 10-11 AM

TA: Katelyn Geleynse, geleynse@wisc.edu, office: 323 Birge Hall

office hours: Friday: 10-noon or by appointment

If you need special accommodations to succeed in the course, please see one of the instructors.

Teaching philosophy: The class is taught as a series of cases. In order to solve the cases, you will have to learn the basics of forest ecology. You will research the cases in teams of 3 or 4 and meet regularly with instructors for guidance. A written solution, submitted as a **WORD** document to **Learn@UW** by **11:59PM** on the due date (except for case 1, due in class), will be required from every individual (**written alone**) for each case. Case write-ups must be **less than 1 page** of text with at least **3 consistently formatted citations from peer-reviewed literature**. In addition, every individual will be required to participate in a group presentation of the solution to one case. The first case will provide an opportunity to learn how to use a variety of resources to solve these cases and write them up properly. Only the solution to case 1 should be written as a team.

Exams: We will give 2 take-home short answer/essay exams, each with emphasis on roughly 1/2 of the course, although the second exam will be somewhat cumulative in nature. You can schedule to meet individually with instructors regarding exam questions. **NO COLLABORATION** with your peers is permitted for exams. Sharing resources or solutions is considered cheating on the exam and may result in course failure or expulsion.

Suggested Reading: There is no perfect, up-to-date textbook on Forest Ecology, but there are a lot of good resources, both on the internet and in the scientific literature. Although this book is not specific to forests, probably the best resource is *Principles of Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology* (2nd edition, 2012) by Chapin, Vitousek and Matson. We will also bring other books to class for you to use as references, and you will rely heavily on online resources.

Case Number	Due Date*	Presentation*	Points
1. What is a forest?	Mon 9/8 in class	none	2
2. Leaf mysteries	9/26	Sept 27	6
3. Tension	10/12	Oct 13	8
4. Food	10/26	Oct 27	10
5. Cooking	11/14	Nov 15	11
6. TBD	11/30	Dec 1	12
7. TBD	12/12	Dec 13	15
Exam 1 - handed out around October 26, due November 1 at 11:59PM*			15
Exam 2 - handed out around December 13, due December 19 at 11:59PM*			15
Case Presentation			2
Attendance			4

Please note: 10% of your grade on case 2 – 7 is a peer-reviewed group participation score.

*** ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE and probably will change.**

 # No class September 29, November 1 or Nov. 24.