E528 FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
Fall Semester, 2017
School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA)
Indiana University - Bloomington

Lectures: PV273, 9:30-10:45 am Mondays and Wednesdays
Labs: A203, 1:00 – 5:00 pm Fridays (often times we will travel offsite)

Instructor: Dr. Kim Novick
E-mail: knovick@indiana.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. or by appointment; MSB2 Room 316

Course Materials: No textbook is required. Our readings and discussions will be informed by a wide range of sources. Class Communication will largely be accomplished through CANVAS.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

1) Develop an understanding and appreciation of the ecological, physiological, and physical factors that determine forest ecosystem structure and function. Learn how to ask and answer questions that address gaps in our knowledge of the interactions among these factors and their impacts on the ecosystem. Learn how to apply conceptual and mathematical frameworks to answer these questions.

2) Learn how to gather, organize, access, and/or present data about forest ecosystem structure and function. This includes new, original data collection, and the access of data shared publically through environmental observation networks.

3) Understand the primary challenges facing forest managers (public, private, and NGO) in Southern Indiana and beyond. Draw links between management approaches and scientific research.

4) Gain familiarity with state-of-the-art research on forest processes, and recommendations for management approaches through critical and analytical reading of peer-reviewed journal articles, governmental and NGO reports, and other primary sources.

LEARNING TOOLS

Discussion of assigned readings (25% of your course grade): Most weeks, we will orient at least one of our lectures around discussion of a specific manuscript or report. To encourage participation in the discussions, you all will fill out a questionnaire about the reading in advance; these will be graded for completion and thoroughness (15% of your course grade). You will also be responsible for leading the discussion of a paper once during the semester (5% of your course grade).

Written assignments (25% of your course grade): Over the course of the semester, you will complete 4 assignments (a combination of quantitative analysis and essay-style questions); many of these will be tied directly to activities completed during the lab period.

Participation in Class Activities (25% of your course grade): The intimate nature of the class will allow us to benefit from frequent opportunities for in-depth discussions, small group exercises, and other dynamic learning approaches. But these will only be successful if we are able to establish a sense of community in the classroom. Therefore, each student may have three “un-excused” absences before their participation grade will be lowered (by 5% for every additional absence beyond 3). This policy does not apply to absences due to illness or family emergency; in the case of illness, a doctor’s note may be required.

Final Project (25% of your course grade): In lieu of a final exam, you will prepare a written report and presentation that answers a novel question relevant to the course objectives. A critical component of this
report is that it must include an original data analysis: these data can be observations you've gathered
yourself, or data you've acquired from a network. A more detailed prompt for the final project will be given
to you mid-day through the semester. Your grade on the project will reflect a project proposal (5% of
your course grade), your written report (15% of your course grade) and a 15-minute in-class presentation
(5% of your course grade).

**Schedule**

A detailed course schedule, including the due dates for assignments, is published in the “Syllabus” Module
on canvas. Please be advised that this is a dynamic schedule that is subject to change, though the due dates
are not expected to change significantly.

**Policies**

**Submission of your work:** Please hand in paper copies of all your assignments and reading
questionnaires.

**Late work:** Grades for the reading questionnaires will be lowered by 30% if they are handed in late (since
their primary purpose is to facilitate in-class discussions. Grades for the written assignments will be
lowered by 15% if they are handed in late (since their primary purpose is to facilitate in-class discussions.
The final project and presentation will not be accepted as late work unless the delay is due to illness (with a
doctors note) or family emergency.

**Analytical Software:** Students are expected to be able to use Excel or the program of their choice
for basic data analysis and preparation of figures. Occasionally other software may be required;
students will be instructed on how to use the “need-to-know” features of those softwares.

**Academic integrity:** Students and the instructor should abide by the expectations outlined in the IU Code
of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct (http://studentcode.iu.edu/) as well as the SPEA Honor

**Incompletes:** The grade of Incomplete used on the final grade reports indicates that the work is
satisfactory as of the end of the semester but has not been completed. The grade of Incomplete
may be given only when the completed portion of a student’s work in the course is of passing
quality. Instructors may award the grade of Incomplete upon a showing of such hardship to a
student as would render it unjust to hold the student to the time limits previously fixed for the
completion of his/her work. (http://policies.iu.edu/policies/categories/academic-faculty-
students/academic-student-affairs/incompletes.shtml)

**Late Withdrawal:** Withdrawal after the automatic withdrawal period requires approval by the
instructor and relevant Program Director, and must be based on dire circumstances relating to
extended illness or equivalent distress (IU Enrollment and Student Academic Information
Bulletin). Requests to drop due to a failing grade will not be approved. You must be passing the
course at the time of withdrawal. Contact your advisor or the appropriate Program Director if you
want to petition for late withdrawal.

**Additional Information for Students**

1. Counseling and Psychological Services For information about services offered to students by CAPS:
2. Disability Services for Students: For information about support services or accommodations available to students with disabilities, and for the procedures to be followed by students and instructors: http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/dss/.

3. Sexual Harassment: [IU requests that instructors include this] As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. Title IX and our own Sexual Misconduct policy prohibit sexual misconduct. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help.

If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with:

   i. The Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS) at 812-855-8900
   ii. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 812-855-5711
   iii. Confidential Victim Advocates (CVA) at 812-856-2469
   iv. IU Health Center at 812-855-4011

For more information about available resources: http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/help/index.html. It is also important to know that federal regulations and University policy require me to promptly convey any information about potential sexual misconduct known to me to our campus’ Deputy Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, they will work with a small number of others on campus to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available to the student who may have been harmed. Protecting a student’s privacy is of utmost concern, and all involved will only share information with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. I encourage you to visit http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/help/index.html to learn more.