

SFR 492 Senior Capstone

Directed Study for Forestry/Forest Management Majors

Course Information

SFR 492 is a 3-credit course designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop a management plan for a forested property using skills and concepts from prior coursework while considering other forest values as well as social and environmental constraints.

Prerequisites: SFR 477 (With instructor consent, 477 can be a co-requisite)

Location and time: Mondays 12:00 – 1:50

Instructor: Dr. Rob Lilieholm
robert.lilieholm@maine.edu
249 Nutting Hall
Office hours: MWF 10:00 – 11:00

Objectives:

1. Develop a management plan for a forested property that meets the criteria outlined in the MFS WoodsWISE Standards.
2. Develop and implement a work plan for a four-month project with specific management activities and timing.
3. Prepare a professional written report targeted to the landowner.
4. Prepare and deliver a professional oral presentation of the management plan to foresters and landowners.

Grading:

Standard grade breakdowns will be used. Your grade will be based on the percentage of all points accumulated plus demonstration of core competencies. Core competencies: a grade of at least a C on the proposal and final report elements is required to receive at least a C in the overall class. **I do not accept late work.** Accommodations will be made only in extenuating circumstances.

- 90 – 100% = A. Superior Work. Student shows competency with all aspects of the assignments and indicates understanding beyond what was discussed.
- 80 – 89% = B. Good Work. Student shows competency with most aspects of the assignment.
- 70 – 79% = C. Satisfactory Work. Management plan is fully complete, and although the student still does not understand all aspects of the material, the instructor can recommend that this person can work with the material under the supervision of another.
- 60 – 69% = D. Poor Work. Student is not adequately prepared for advanced work in this discipline.
- <60% = F. Work is incomplete and instructor has no confidence that the student understands the material.

Elements of grading:

Project Proposal, 100 points (10%)
Project Updates (4), 100 points total (10%)
Critiques (4), 100 points total (10%)
Final Presentation, 200 points (20%)
Final Report, 500 points (50%)

Schedule of Tasks:

Project Proposal: Due Monday, February 1st in Class

Students are expected to prepare a written proposal (see format attached) to develop a management plan. The proposal should outline project objectives, background information on the site, data collection and analysis techniques, and a detailed timeline (i.e., Gantt chart). Proposals will be returned to students by Wednesday, February 3rd, as either approved, conditionally approved (minor adjustments required), or unapproved (major adjustments required). A revised proposal, if needed, is due Monday, February 8th in class. Your proposal grade will be based on your final proposal. **You must have an approved proposal by February 15th to continue in the class.**

Project Updates/Critiques: 2/08, 2/29, 3/21, and 4/04

Starting February 8th, students will deliver a project update presentation to the class outlining progress on their respective plans. The intent of this exercise is to measure students' ability to implement a complex plan and to demonstrate proper time management skills. Each Team will have 10-15 minutes to present. Include progress relative to your original timeline, difficulties encountered, etc. Include PowerPoint, handouts, and written summaries. Following each update, students will also receive feedback on progress by course instructor and other students, both verbally and written (critiques).

- UPDATE 1: Draft Table of Contents, List of Figures/Tables, Gantt Chart (2/08 in class)
- UPDATE 2: General condition & stand descriptions summary (2/29 in class)
- UPDATE 3: Management alternatives (3/21 in class)
- UPDATE 4: Recommendations & justification (4/04 in class)

Draft Report: Due Monday, April 11th (beginning of class)

A draft written management plan that incorporates the elements described in the Maine Forest Service WoodsWISE Forest Management Plan Standards will be **due on 4/11**. More details on format for the management plans will be provided later in the semester. **Your grade for the final report will be based on both content and presentation**, things like thorough completion of all elements of a plan, correct grammar, and professional formatting (a complete grading rubric will be available later in the semester). This ungraded assignment is provided to you as an opportunity to get comments before turning in your final report. Draft reports with comments will be available for pick up by Friday, April 15th. **Your report grade will be based on your final report only.**

Final Presentation: Monday, May 2nd

A public presentation of each management plan will be held at the end of the semester. Each group will be allocated 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions to present a summary of their plan via PowerPoint. A description of presentation expectations will be distributed in advance. **Participating landowners, faculty advisors, faculty members, SFR students, and industry reps will be invited to attend.** Students will be expected to incorporate feedback into their final management plans. **Final Report: Due Monday of finals week (May 9th) by noon.**

Course Schedule 2016 (* tentative speakers)

Week	Date	Topic/Task	Due (at class time)
1	1/25	Intro to class, management plans, goals and objectives	
2	2/01	<i>1:00-1:50 Inventory & Analysis Review (Aaron Weiskittel)</i>	PROPOSAL
3	2/08	Class Updates: Gantt Chart & Table of Contents <i>FVS & Forest Management Plans (Crandall & Seymour, Wheatland Lab)</i>	UPDATE 1
4	2/15	<i>Things to Know when Creating a Plan (Bob Seymour)</i>	
5	2/22	<i>Forest Operations Review (Jeff Benjamin & Anil)</i>	
6	2/29	Class Updates: General Condition & Stand Descriptions <i>Forest Health Review (Bill Livingston)</i>	UPDATE 2
7	3/07	NO CLASS – Spring break	--
8	3/14	NO CLASS – Spring break	--
9	3/21	Class Updates: Management Alternatives <i>Ecology & Silviculture (Fraver 12:00/Seymour 12:55)</i>	UPDATE 3
10	3/28	<i>Incorporating Wildlife into Planning (Erin Simons & Amber Roth)</i> <i>Forest Certification & Timber Markets (Keith Kanoti)*</i>	
11	4/04	Class updates: Recommendations & Justification	UPDATE 4
12	4/11	<i>Economics & Policy Review (Rob Lilieholm)</i>	DRAFT REPORT
13	4/18	<i>Recreation Review (Sandra DeUrioste-Stone)</i>	DRAFT PRESENTATION SLIDES
14	4/25	NO CLASS – Independent work time	PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS
15	5/02	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	FINAL PRESENTATION
16	5/09	Finals Week – No final	FINAL REPORT

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause)

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Sexual Violence Policy

Sexual discrimination reporting

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention (OSAVP) or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?

The University can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?

An employee from OSAVP or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain

confidentiality, you must understand that the institution's ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution's response.

The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: **Counseling Center (207-581-1392)** or **Cutler Health Center (207-581-4000)**.

For confidential resources off campus: **Rape Response Services (1-800-310-0000)** or **Spruce Run (1-800-863-9909)**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911.** Or see the OSVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osvp/>