

NR 42 - WILDLAND FIRE TECHNOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS

OBJECTIVES

This class is an overview of all the activities related to fire management, except fire suppression, which was covered in NR 5. It includes discussions ranging from early fire history to fire's effect on fuels, vegetation, organisms, and soil. We will explore through films, slides, lecture, guest speakers, and field observations the whole realm of fire management in the United States and around the world.

There will be several field trips to outlying areas to observe management under field situations. These excursions will be for whole days or at least outside the normal class period. In addition, we will have guest speakers throughout the semester who will cover various disciplines of wildland fire management.

ATTENDANCE

There is no textbook for this course; therefore, it would be very advisable to attend each class session. There will be numerous handouts for the course distributed throughout the semester.

The class will start promptly at 1400 each Tuesday, unless otherwise specified by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student (following an absence from class) to check on class meeting changes for field trips, etc.

Students are expected to be in class on time and be ready for activities, including field trips. Attendance points will be awarded for each class session. Only excused absences are given points for missed class sessions. The following are considered to be excused absences: illness, medical and dental appointments (if they cannot be avoided), death or serious illness/injury in the immediate family, and some court appearances (on a case by case basis). All others will be considered by the instructor as to their validity as an unexcused absence.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Campus code requires shoes (sandals accepted) and a shirt to be worn at all times.

There will be no eating, drinking, or smoking (including smokeless tobacco products) allowed in any building.

No children and/or pets will be allowed to "sit in" during class time.

At no time will horseplay be allowed anywhere on campus, including field trips and at the school forest. This also includes no foul language.

Skateboards and/or rollerblades are not allowed anywhere on campus.

Students must complete the entire course (including the final exam) in order to receive a passing grade.

If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing another's work, you will be removed from the class and assigned an "F" for the course.

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES

Students will remove their hats upon entering the classroom. Everything that you bring to class must be removed when you leave. Any refuge will be placed in the trash receptacle provided in the room before you leave.

Field trips may require you to wear a hardhat which you must provide for yourself. Any supplies, equipment, etc. used by students from the college will be issued, then the student is responsible for the return of that equipment at the end of the specified use period. Any misuse of equipment which results in breakage will be paid for by the student(s) responsible.

There will be no talking to associate students during lecture time. Repeated violations of this policy will be removal from the classroom. Return to the classroom is at the discretion of the instructor.

If a student wishes to drop a class, it is his/her responsibility to initiate the action. The **LAST DAY** to drop a class without penalty is **FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2000**. After that date, **a grade must be assigned**.

GRADING

Because of the nature of the course content and the manner by which the subject matter will be presented, there will be one written mid-term and a final exam. However, each field trip and guest speaker's presentation will require a written (typed only), minimum 3-page report from each student. The course will be evaluated as follows:

Midterm Exam	...	100±
Attendance	...	85
Field Trips & Guest Speaker Reports (30/each)	...	210
Final Exam	...	<u>200±</u>
Total Points	...	595±

Regular exams and assignments missed will be allowed a one-week grace period (with a 10% reduction in possible score), after which no credit will be allowed. There will, however, be opportunities to either make up missed work or earn extra credit. The instructor has numerous small projects which can be used for extra credit where it is appropriate.

In general, a passing grade will be a "D", about 60% of the total point values awarded. Grading will be based upon a sliding curve using the highest total points earned.

OFFICE HOURS

Office: FEM 3 (Forestry/Engineering/Math Building) near the east entrance.
Phone: (559) 638-3641, Extension 3275
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00-11:00 a.m

Please see me if you have any problems with this course or anything else you need help or direction with. Remember, I cannot help you if you do not talk to me.

SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule for the course and the basic subject matter to be presented (contingent on weather and other factors beyond the control of the instructor).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity/Topic</u>	
Jan. 11	Introduction, Conduct of Course, History of Fire In the World and North America	
Jan. 18	Fire History (Conflagration) in the U.S.	Video, Film
Jan. 25	History of Fire Control Organization in the U.S.	
Feb. 1	Fire Management Today: An Overview	USFS Speaker
Feb. 8	Forest Fires, Fire Types, Sources of Fire History	Film or Video
Feb. 15	Fire Ecology - Fire Types <u>EXAM I</u>	
Feb. 22	Fire's Effect on Fuels	Guest Speaker
Feb. 29	Fire's Effect on Vegetation and Biome Changes	
Mar. 7	Field Trip - Fresno Air Attack Base (1300+)	
Mar. 14	Fire's Effect on Soil and Soil Organisms	
Mar. 21	Fuels Management Overview	Guest Speaker
Mar. 28	Fuels Management Fuel Breaks and Fuels Reduction	
Apr. 4	Fuels Management Slash Disposal Methods All Day Field Trip - School Forest, etc.	
Apr. 11	Hazard Reduction and Risk, Public Relations	
Apr. 17-21	Spring Break - NO CLASSES	
Apr. 25	Law Enforcement - Fire Investigations	Guest Speaker
May 2	Fire Management Systems Worldwide	
May 9	Course Review/Catch-Up	
May 16	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> (Tuesday) 1300-1500	