

FOR 425: Forest Management and Finance Fall 2021

(3 credits, two hours asynchronous online lecture; one 2- hour F2F lab per week)

INSTRUCTORS:	Dr. Paul Doruska (lecture)	Dr. Melinda Vokoun (lab)
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Class Time: Lecture: Asynchronous online via Canvas
Lab: Section 1: Wed 12:00 - 1:50pm in TNR 359
Section 2: Wed 2:00 - 3:50pm in TNR 359

Final Exam Slot: None since lecture is online

Student Hours: Paul Doruska: Tues & Wed 11:00 – 11:50am F2F or via Zoom
Melinda Vokoun: Tues & Wed 9:00 – 9:50am F2F or via Zoom

Prerequisites: FOR 322 or concurrent registration, FOR 432 or concurrent registration;
CNR major or written consent of instructor

Text: Bettinger, P., K. Boston, J.P. Siry, and D.L. Grebner. 2017. Forest Management and Planning. 2nd Ed. Academic Press, Massachusetts. 349 p.

Other References: Davis, L.S., K.N. Johnson. P.S. Bettinger, and T.E. Howard. 2001. Forest Management. 4th Ed. McGraw-Hill Inc. New York. 804p.

Ginn, W. 2005. Investing in nature: Case studies of Land Conservation in Collaboration with Business. Island Press, Washington. 212 p. Available at: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uwsp/detail.action?docID=3317384>

Klemperer. D.W. 1996. Forest Resource Economics and Finance, McGraw Hill, Inc. New York. 551 p.

Learning Outcomes: Students in this course will learn the principles of forest finance, forest management decisions, rotation determination and forest regulation. In class examples and assigned problems will be taken from all forestry options (ecosystem restoration and management, forest management, forest recreation, and urban forestry), Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- (1.) Use discounted cash flow analysis techniques (NPV, IRR, etc.) to evaluate investments.
- (2.) Estimate the monetary value of forestland.
- (3.) Evaluate the impact on inflation and taxation on investments.
- (4.) Determine rotation lengths and management plans that meet landowner/stakeholder objectives.
- (5.) Prepare written correspondence that is professional and informative.

Forestry professionals use these skills and the information gathered via these techniques to inform or make forest management decisions. Therefore, by gaining confidence in these skills, students will be establishing the groundwork for making or informing forest management-, investment- and/or stewardship-based decisions throughout their careers. As a side note, many of the financial concepts are also useful in your personal lives, now and into the future, making this a life-skills style course as well.

Grading:

There will be six lecture-based quizzes/activities (60 POINTS total) in Canvas covering key points and a 50 POINT final over the course of the semester. Quiz/activity material will include material discussed in lectures, labs and any assigned readings.

There will be eight lab problem/tasks/assignments (80 POINTS total) a business memo (15 POINTS), and a project (30 points).

One's lowest 10 point assignment score will be dropped when determining final grades as long as it does not lower your course percentage.

Attendance and Professionalism is worth 25 POINTS.

COURSE TOTAL POINTS: 250 points

Normally, cumulative-weighted percentages will be rounded to the nearest tenth and course grades will be assigned as follows (instructor reserves the right to curve):

91.6% or higher	A	77.6% to 79.5%	C+
89.6% to 91.5%	A-	71.6% to 77.5%	C
87.6% to 89.5%	B+	69.6% to 71.5%	C-
81.6% to 87.5%	B	67.6% to 69.5%	D+
79.6% to 81.5%	B-	59.6% to 67.5%	D
		Less than 59.6%	F

Instructor's tips:

- (1.) Come to class willing to learn and have fun, we certainly plan to do so.
- (2.) Keep up with the readings and the assignments.

Instructor's rules:

- (1.) Discussion of assignments between students is encouraged, however all work (unless part of any group projects) **must be done** independently.
- (2.) Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated (see also the Professionalism Statement)
- (3.) Posting instructor-created course material onto course-sharing websites directly violates the instructors' copyright on their academic materials; permission to post instructor-created material on any such site is unequivocally denied.
- (4.) Note if meeting on campus we are on a tobacco free campus. Smoking or other tobacco use is not permitted during class or labs, including any of those for which we are outdoors.
- (5.) If you know you will miss a scheduled exam for an excusable reason, you have to let me know ahead of time and explain why you will be unable to take the exam at the scheduled time. Unexcused absences from exams result in zeroes.
- (5.) Assignments are due at the stated times on the respective due dates. Late assignments will receive a score of zero.
- (6.) All written or word processed work is expected to be grammatically correct, neat, and well organized. Work that is sloppy, hard to read, does not follow prescribed format, and/or contains many spelling and/or grammatical errors will be graded with a 0.

Attendance Policy

Lectures will be asynchronous online– you are expected to view them as outlined and complete any tasks related to them in a timely manner and by any deadlines utilized. Laboratory sessions are very important (you will learn concepts in lectures and put them into practice in labs where you will also learn/review/and gain practice with applications of course material). Absences from lab or inability to view lectures/complete tasks due to illness, family emergency, or University sponsored activities will be excused provided a written explanation, provided by the student, is given to and acknowledged by the relevant instructor prior to the intended absence except for emergencies in which case an explanation should be turned in as soon as practical. If you are feeling ill please do stay away from our F2F meetings out of respect to the others (again, part of being a professional) – just let your instructor know in advance if possible. If unexcused absences occur on days when assignments are due, then it is your responsibility to see that the assignments are turned in by the assigned due date/time in order to receive credit. Attending a lab section other than your registered section will not be allowed unless pre-approved by the instructor. Missing classes and not viewing/studying online materials HABITUALLY almost always results in lower grades! You are strongly encouraged to attend all scheduled class meetings.

If you are quarantined/isolated as part of COVID protocols. It is your responsibility to inform your instructors (it will be kept confidential, have no worries there) but will allow for better delivery of course material when in quarantine/isolation. The Dean of Students Office determined that this notification is the student's responsibility.

Students with Disabilities:

The university has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated, but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability Resource Center (DRC), 108 Collins Classroom Center, voice (715) 346-3365; email: drc@uwsp.edu

Know/remember that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies lands of the Ho-Chunk and Menominee people. Please take a moment to acknowledge and honor the ancestral Ho-Chunk and Menominee land and the sacred land of all indigenous peoples.

Required Statement on Emergency Preparedness:

"In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use the emergency phone located outside TNR Rm 151 or 172 on the first floor; TNR 2nd floor between Rms 252 and 255 or between Rms 219 and 221; TNR 3rd floor by Rms 320 or 358 (on other side of hall). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning and on a second or higher floor, proceed to the TNR second floor or southern 1st floor hallway.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the TNR building in a calm manner. Meet at the northwest corner of parking lot E. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management at <https://www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/default.aspx> for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point."

Inclusive Environment:

This course (and our university!) is an inclusive environment. This course might foster discussion, with respectful exchange of ideas and opinions. Disrespect and disparagement will not be tolerated. We have a great opportunity to learn from each other, and to appreciate and understand our differences. See also the CNR Principles of Professionalism, the Society of American Foresters Code of Ethics, and the Forestry Discipline's anti-harassment statement.

Professionalism Statement

Students in the College of Natural Resources are pursuing courses of study that prepare them for careers as natural resources professionals. Thus, CNR students and faculty/staff are expected to exhibit conduct and attitudes appropriate to professionals. Conduct and attitudes appropriate for professionals include, but are not restricted to,

1. The UWSP Student Rights and Responsibilities are available via: www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights
2. Attitudes appropriate for resource professionals of the 21st Century:
 - a. Respect for others and for their ideas;
 - b. Appreciation for ethnic and gender diversity in the workplace;
 - c. Sensitivity to environmental quality;
 - d. Adherence to professional ethics, e.g. the Society of American Foresters Code of Ethics and other professional organization's codes of ethics.

Therefore, academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

Note the following as per the Univ. of Wisc.-Stevens Point Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities:

UWSP 14.03 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

(1.) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;

or

(f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(g) Violates electronic communication policies or standards as agreed upon when logging on initially (See uwsp.edu/it/policy).

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

UWSP 14.04 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS.

(1) The following are the disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed for academic misconduct in accordance with the procedures of s. UWSP 14.05, 14.06 or 14.07:

- (a) An oral reprimand;
- (b) A written reprimand presented only to the student;
- (c) An assignment to repeat the work, to be graded on its merits;
- (d) A lower or failing grade on the particular assignment or test;
- (e) A lower grade in the course;
- (f) A failing grade in the course;
- (g) Removal of the student from the course in progress;
- (h) A written reprimand to be included in the student's disciplinary file;
- (i) Disciplinary probation; or
- (j) Suspension or expulsion from the university.

(2) One or more of the disciplinary sanctions listed in sub. (1) may be imposed for an incident of academic misconduct.

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point College of Natural Resources-Principles of Professionalism

The College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point prepares students for success as professionals in many fields. As a professional, there are expectations of attainment of several personal characteristics. These include:

Integrity

Integrity refers to adherence to consistent moral and ethical principles. A person with integrity is honest and treats others fairly.

Collegiality

Collegiality is a cooperative relationship. By being collegial you are respecting our shared commitment to student education through cooperative interaction. This applies to all involved in the process: students, staff, faculty, administration and involved community members. You take collective responsibility for the work performed together, helping the group attain its goals.

Civility

Civility refers to politeness and courtesy in your interactions with others. Being civil requires that you consider the thoughts and conclusions of others and engage in thoughtful, constructive discussion to express your own thoughts and opinions.

Inclusivity

Inclusivity requires you to be aware that perspective and culture will control how communication is understood by others. While many values are shared, some are quite different. These differences in values should be both considered and respected.

Timeliness

Timeliness is the habit of performance of tasks and activities, planned in a way that allows you to meet deadlines. This increases workplace efficiency and demonstrates respect for others' time.

Respect for Property

Respect for property is the appreciation of the economic or personal value an item maintains. Maintaining this respect can both reduce costs (increase the operable life of supplies and equipment) as well as demonstrate respect for others rights.

Communication

Professional norms in communication require that you demonstrate the value of your colleagues, students, professors or others. The use of appropriate tone and vocabulary is expected across all forms of communication, whether that communication takes place face to face, in writing or electronically.

Commitment to Quality

Quality is the ability to meet or exceed expectations. By having a commitment to quality, we intend to provide a learning environment that is conducive to learning. Intrinsic to this commitment to quality is defining expectation (committed to in a syllabus through learning outcomes), implementation (with quality control in place) and assessment (where meeting of learning outcomes is determined).

Commitment to Learning

Learning is a lifelong process. By being committed to learning you are providing a model for all to follow. This model is not only professor to student but involves all combinations of people within our university and broader community

Adherence to this compact is required of the faculty and staff of the College of Natural Resources and of all students enrolled in College of Natural Resources courses.

Forestry Anti-harassment Statement

Introduction

In adopting this statement, the forestry discipline within the College of Natural Resources (CNR), at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) has expectations for professional behavior of its students, staff, faculty, and other associated parties. Anyone who has a reasonable belief that they, or another student, staff, faculty or guest, have been the victim of harassment, bullying, or discrimination, or any other violation in the statement herein, are encouraged and expected to report the conduct. See reporting options and guidelines at the end of this document.

The forestry discipline within the College of Natural Resources is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and professional environment. The forestry discipline operates under the UWSP harassment, discrimination, and retaliation prevention guidelines, copied here:

“The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is committed to fostering an environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive to all and to educate all employees on these important issues. In addition, we are obligated, under Regent policy and federal regulations, to ensure our employees are informed on the issues of unlawful discrimination, harassment, and sexual violence.”

Statement

The forestry discipline, following the lead of the Society of American Foresters which accredits the B.S. forestry degree, believes we all have a responsibility in creating a safe, inclusive, professional environment in all forestry-related activities and events. All forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying are prohibited. This applies to all participants in all settings (online and in-person) and locations (on- and off-campus) where forestry classes and associated activities are conducted, including student organization events and activities, committee meetings, workshops, conferences, and other work and social functions where employees, volunteers, sponsors, vendors, or guests are present.

Discrimination is prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, disability, pregnancy, marital or parental status, veteran status, or any other category protected by law.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under federal, state, and local laws.

Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, ridicule, hazing or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment. Bullying behavior may go beyond characteristics protected by applicable laws, including but not limited to, political views, dress, or other outward physical appearances.

Other types of harassment include any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

The following list, while not exhaustive, includes examples of unacceptable behavior: slurs, jokes, threats, or derogatory comments relating to the characteristics noted above. Examples of inappropriate physical harassment that violate this statement include, but are not

limited to: assault, unwanted touching, or impeding or blocking movement. In addition, no individual may be denied admission to, or participation in or the benefits of, any UWSP-associated events. Similarly, the display or circulation of derogatory or demeaning posters, cards, cartoons, emails, texts, videos, and graffiti which relate to characteristics noted above violate this statement.

Reporting

Students, staff, faculty, or guests associated with Forestry-related programming who experience or witness incidents of harassment are strongly encouraged to report the incident. The Forestry discipline strongly urges the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken.

Reporting can be done online or in person, to a faculty or staff member, and/or the UWSP Dean of Students. Anonymous reporting is available.

The UWSP Title IX Website is the home for all information related to harassment and discrimination, including reporting options, student and employee resources, and information about what happens after a report is submitted:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/titleix/Pages/default.aspx>

Preamble

Service to society is the cornerstone of any profession. The profession of forestry serves society by fostering stewardship of the world's forests. Because forests provide valuable resources and perform critical ecological functions, they are vital to the wellbeing of both society and the biosphere.

Members of SAF have a deep and enduring love for the land, and are inspired by the profession's historic traditions, such as Gifford Pinchot's utilitarianism and Aldo Leopold's ecological conscience. In their various roles as practitioners, teachers, researchers, advisers, and administrators, foresters seek to sustain and protect a variety of forest uses and attributes, such as aesthetic values, air and water quality, biodiversity, recreation, timber production, and wildlife habitat.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives. Compliance with the code demonstrates members' respect for the land and their commitment to the long-term management of ecosystems, and ensures just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

On joining the SAF, members assume a special responsibility to the profession and to society by promising to uphold and abide by the following:

Principles and Pledges

- 1. Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.**
- 2. Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.**
- 3. Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.**
- 4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.**
- 5. Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.**
- 6. Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.**

Course Role in Accreditation

If you are a forestry major you know your degree is accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF). That body requires that accredited educational programs meet a total of 40 educational competencies amongst other non-curricular competencies. This course contributes to some or all of the following education competencies

Forestry Standard:

C. FOREST RESOURCE POLICY, ECONOMICS, AND ADMINISTRATION

C4-C.1. Knowledge of the processes by which forest policy is developed and enacted.

C4-C.3. Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws and regulations and how they impact the practice of forest resource management.

C4-C.4. Knowledge of various certification systems that assess sustainable forest management practices and how they impact practices and output availability.

C4-C.5. Knowledge of the structures, management principles and business operations of enterprises in the public and private sectors and how they influence forest management.

C4-C.6. An understanding of the valuation procedures, including market and nonmarket forces, that play a role in forest management decisions.

C4-C.7. An ability to synthesize product utilization and pricing, management costs, financial discounting and land and timber valuation in the context of a management plan or evaluation of competing management alternatives or strategies.

D. SILVICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

C4-D.6. An ability to analyze existing data to predict the economic, environmental, and social consequences of forest resource management strategies and decisions.

C4-D.7. An ability to develop forest management plans with specific multiple objectives and constraints.

C4-D.8. An ability to explain the range of feasible alternatives and defend, orally and in writing, the recommended management actions.

Important information about online course materials and online course endeavors

Instructor Recording and sharing class lectures

If a lecture recording only includes the instructor, the recording is not a student record and not considered protected by FERPA. If a recording includes student interactions (questions, presentations, etc.) and those students are identifiable, the recording would be a protected educational record. The recording could only be made available to the students in that specific class and/or to university officials with legitimate educational interest in that information – a genuine need for access to perform their duties. If the instructor wishes to further share the recording outside of the class, either identifiable students would have to provide written consent to release their participation or portions of the recording would have to be changed or omitted to avoid identifying students. But again, if no students are identifiable in any way (seen, heard or named), the recording would not be FERPA protected. Additionally, recordings that include student interactions are appropriate for posting within Canvas.

Student Recording and Sharing Class Lecture

Sometimes students record lectures or copy lecture materials (including instructor's recordings) and post them outside of class on internet sites or provide them to note sharing companies. These acts can violate intellectual property rights held by the instructor and the university. UW System Board of Regent policy authorizes instructors to limit or restrict students from copying, recording or using instructional materials or lectures unless necessary to reasonably accommodate a student's disability. [[Regent Policy Document 4-1](#)] If an instructor wishes to impose restrictions, the instructor should inform students of the limitations and the potential consequences of being subject to charges of student misconduct. Notification can be made through a syllabus, a lecture, or by other means to ensure awareness

Given the above please note that Lecture/Lab materials and recordings for FOR 425/625 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture/lab is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record lectures/labs without instructor permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Course Topical Outline

Lab day (week)	Topic(s)	Readings
9/7 (1)	Course Introduction and basic value calculations (L)	Ch. 1, Ch. 2 Pgs 34-48
9/14 (2)	Value and Payment Calculations (L)	Ch. 2 Pgs 34-48, 51;
9/21 (3)	Financial Markets/Investing(*)	
9/28 (4)	Capital Budgeting/Inflation (*) (L)	
10/5 (5)	Inflation/Taxation/Risk (*)	Ch. 2 Pg 52-53
10/12 (6)	Inflation/Taxation/Risk (L)	Ch. 2 Pg 52-53
10/19 (7)	Risk/Forest Valuation (*)	Ch 2 Pg 49; Ch. 5 Pg 113-122
10/26 (8)	Risk/Forest/Land Valuation (L)	Ch 4; Ch. 5 Pg. 113-122
11/2 (9)	Forest Valuation/Rotation and Stocking Determination (L)	Ch. 5 Pg. 113-122
11/9 (10)	Rotation and Stocking Determination/Forest Growth and Yield Models (*) (P)	Ch. 5 Pg. 113-122/ Ch. 4
11/16 (11)	Dynamic Programming/Certification Systems/Projects (*)	Ch. 5 Pg.124-137/ Ch. 15
11/23 (12)	Linear Programming (L)	Ch. 7 & 12
11/30 (13)	Topic Spillover/Class Projects	
12/7 (14)	Forest Policy/ Class Projects/Ethics (L)	Appendix C
12/14 (15)	Ethics/Topic spillover/Course Summary and Review	
12/16-12/20	Asynchronous online final exam to be completed	

Note topics marked with an (L) for a given week will have a lab assignment that will go out that week.

Note topics marked with an (*) will have a lecture quiz/task to complete that week.