

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS & MANAGEMENT

ERS 234

Course Outline: Fall 2021

"Sadly, it's much easier to create a desert than a forest" – James Lovelock

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the fundamental concepts of forest ecology and the role of forests in terrestrial ecosystems. The course will be divided into three sections and will integrate case studies to introduce the student to current research problems in the study of forest ecology.

Section 1: People & Forests

evaluates the impact of humans and a growing population on forest ecosystems. The dependence of humans on forest resources and the development of forestry and forestry practices will be discussed.

Section 2: Forest Ecosystems

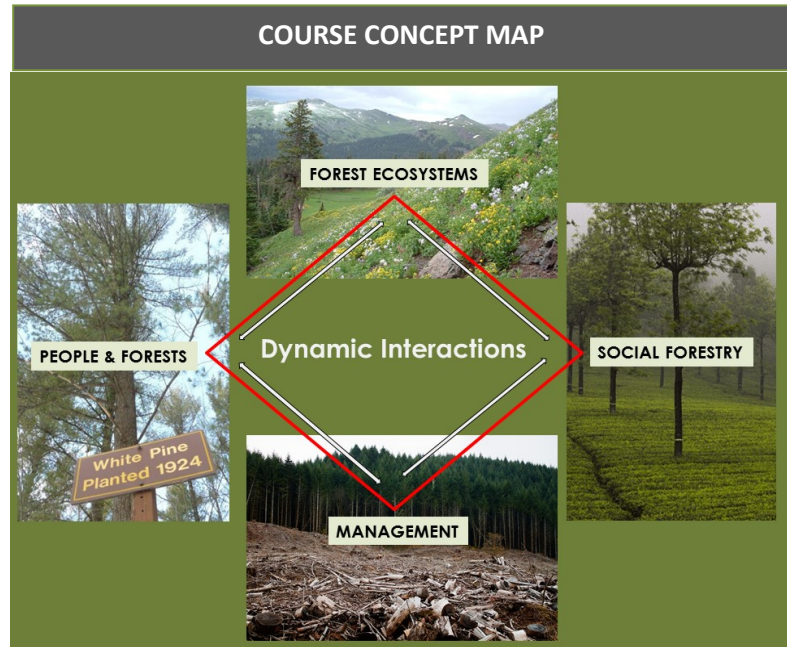
(ecological Interactions) will discuss the concept of ecosystems and its emergent properties, the transfer, storage and allocation of energy and nutrients (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus etc.) and the effects of humans on these forest cycles. Interactions include the effects of solar radiation, temperature, water, wind, fire and soil on forest ecosystem productivity and diversity.

Section 3: Forest Management focuses on conventional and sustainable forest management practices, forest plantations, forest fragmentation, biodiversity and climate change.

Section 4: Forests & Society (social forestry) builds on Section 1, but with a focus on sustainable approaches to forest management. This course is available on LEARN.

COURSE GOAL

To introduce the fundamental concepts of forest biology and ecology, and forest management; and to introduce the major factors that lead to the interaction between people, society and forests and the development of policies for forest conservation.



INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Section 1: People and Forests

- Understand the fundamental issues to forest degradation that led to policy development in Canada and the USA to protect forest ecosystems

2. Section 2: Forest Ecosystems

- Identify different forest biomes of the world and recognize different forest landscapes and watershed management approaches
- Understand forest ecophysiology
- Describe forest soils and their importance in forest ecosystem ecology

3. Section 3: Forest Management

- Wildlife, fire, measuring & monitoring, silvicultural practice
- Understand wildlife and forest ecosystem interactions
- Understand the positive and negative roles of fire in forest ecosystems
- Explain how to measure and monitor forest resources
- Describe different forest management (silvicultural) techniques

4. Section 4: Forests & Society (Social Forestry)

- Describe what is social forestry and current issues in social forestry

TECHNIQUES LEARNED

- ◆ Applied problem solving skills
- ◆ Critical thinking skills
- ◆ Writing & time management skills
- ◆ Synthesizing new knowledge skills
- ◆ Communication & organizational skills
- ◆ Writing exams under pressure

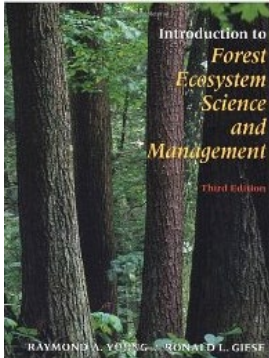
COURSE MEETING TIMES & LOCATION

Lectures and Reading Online	Tutorials In-Person
Each week's material is Available on LEARN	Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30
Students are expected to read through on their own	2:30 – 3:30 Location TBD

INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM

	PROFESSOR	TEACHING ASSISTANT
NAME	Shefaza Esmail	Misty Matthews-Roper
CONTACT INFORMATION	Office: EV-2, Room 2008 E-mail: shefaza.esmail@uwaterloo.ca	E-mail: m2jackma@uwaterloo.ca
OFFICE HOURS	Wednesday 1 – 2pm or by appointment (reach out by email)	Make appointment by email

MATERIALS



This textbook is available in the UW Bookstore:

Strongly Recommended

Raymond A. Young and Ronald L. Giese. *Introduction to Forest Ecosystem Science and Management, 3rd Edition*. (Copy on reserve at Dana Porter Library).

Additional (but not required for the course) readings to supplement the textbook will be available on Learn. These readings will be relevant to the material discussed in class; help with the assignment and provide further insight for interested students.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

LEARNING OUTCOME	ASSESSMENT METHODS (FORMATIVE & SUMMATIVE)	% OF OVERALL GRADE	TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS
1. PEOPLE & FORESTS	Reflection (due Sept 13 th)	5	• LEARN website
2. FOREST ECOSYSTEMS	Class participation (throughout term)	5	• Textbook readings
	Weekly Worksheets (Mondays starting Sept 20 th)	40	• PowerPoint slides
			• Interactive tutorials
			• Case studies
3. FOREST MANAGEMENT	Storytelling Assignment (due Nov 19 th)	25	• LEARN website
			• Textbook readings
			• PowerPoint slides
4. FORESTS & SOCIETY	Final Exam (take-home Dec 2-3 rd)	25	• Interactive tutorials
			• Case studies

SUMMARIZED SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

MODULE #	DAY OF LECTURE	LECTURE #	TOPIC	READING MATERIAL	
PEOPLE & FORESTS	Sept 8, 2021	1	- Introduction - Forest ecosystem sustainability	Introduction Chapter 1	
FOREST ECOSYSTEMS (ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS)	Sept 13, 2021	2	- Forest biomes of the world - DVD: Seasonal Forests*	Chapter 3	
	Sept 20, 2021	3	- Landscape ecology & watershed management	Chapter 7 Chapter 16	
	Sept 27, 2021	4	- Forest ecophysiology	Chapter 4	
	Oct 4, 2021	5	- Forest soils	Chapter 5	
	Oct 11, 2021	Fall Reading Week (no class)			
	Oct 18, 2021	6	- Forest ecosystem ecology - DVD: Climbing Redwood Giants*	Chapter 6	

FOREST MANAGEMENT	Oct 25, 2021	7	- Forest wildlife management	Chapter 14
	Nov 1, 2021	8	- Forest fires	Chapter 18
	Nov 8, 2021	9	- Forest Mensuration	Chapter 11
	Nov 15, 2021	10	- Silvicultural Systems	Chapter 13 Chapter 19
FORESTS & SOCIETY	Nov 22, 2021	11	- Social forestry	Chapter 23
	Nov 29, 2021		- Final Exam: question & answers	

***Videos are to be confirmed based on availability**

DETAILED SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

MODULE I: PEOPLE & FORESTS

LECTURE 1

Introduction

- Introduction to ERS 234: Forest Ecosystems and Management
- Course outline
- Course expectations

Sustainability of Forest Ecosystems (Introduction & Chapter 1)

- Introduction to forest ecosystem science and management
- Forest policy development in the USA
- Forest policy development in Canada

MODULE II: FOREST ECOSYSTEMS (ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS)

LECTURE 2

Forest Biomes of the World (Chapter 2)

- Factors affecting vegetation distribution
- Forest biomes
- Canadian forest ecozones
- Global change and forests

LECTURE 3

Landscape Ecology and Watershed Management (Chapter 7 & 16)

- Introduction
- Landscape patterns and their generation
- Influence of landscape patterns on forest ecosystems
- The watershed concept
- The hydrological cycle
- Global distribution of terrestrial water
- Integrated watershed management

LECTURE 4

Forest Ecophysiology (Chapter 4)

- Tree structure and function
- Environmental stresses
- Global issues in forest ecophysiology

LECTURE 5

Forest Soils (Chapter 5)

- Concept of forest soil & properties of forest soils
- Nutrient distribution and cycling in forest ecosystems
- Forest soils and tree nutrition
- Soil survey and classification
- Forest soils and environmental quality

LECTURE 6

Forest Ecosystem Ecology (Chapter 6)

- Concepts in systems ecology
- Forest tree species distribution
- The carbon cycle and forest growth
- The nutrient cycle
- Forest succession
- Effects of timber harvesting on forest ecosystems

MODULE III: FOREST MANAGEMENT

LECTURE 7

Forest Wildlife Management (Chapter 14)

- Ecological interactions
- Wildlife as components of forest ecosystems
- Wildlife effects on forests
- Effects of forest management on wildlife
- Wildlife considerations in ecosystem management

LECTURE 8

Forest Fires (Chapter 18)

- Natural fire regimes
- Human influence on forest fire
- Fire behavior
- Fire prevention, control & prescribed burning
- Environmental Impacts of Forest Fires

LECTURE 9

Measuring and Monitoring Forest Resources (Chapter 11)

- Measurement of primary forest products
- Survey and mapping
- Measuring forest resources

Silviculture and Ecosystem Management (Chapters 13 & 19)

- Evolution of silvicultural practices
- Natural patterns of disturbance
- Growth and development of forest stands
- Treatments to improve existing stands
- Regeneration of forest stands
- Silvicultural systems
- Silvicultural practices and ecosystem integrity
- Ecological Forest Management (EFM)
- Timber harvesting techniques (Chapter 19)

MODULE IV: FORESTS & SOCIETY (SOCIAL FORESTRY)

LECTURE 10

Social Forestry (Chapter 23)

- Global experience in social forestry
- Issues and challenges in social forestry
- Final exam: questions and answers

DESCRIPTION OF DVD_s

Seasonal Forests (BBC's Planet Earth)

Trees are earth's largest organisms and are also one of the planet's oldest inhabitants. Seasonal forests (unlike tropical rain-forest) the largest land habitats. A third of all trees grow in the endless taiga of the Arctic north. Northern America has forests that include California's sequoia's, the earth's largest trees. There and elsewhere, their vast production of photosynthesis and shade presides over a seasonal cycle of life and involves countless plant and animal species. *Written by [KGF Vissers](#).*

Climbing Redwood Giants (National Geographic)

They are giants—stretching more than 300 feet above the ground, with hidden gardens and mysterious predators thriving within their canopy. National Geographic reveals the unexplored environment of redwoods using high-tech aerial laser surveys and breathtaking imagery. Obsessive redwood climber Steve Sillett of Humboldt State University investigates their monster crowns, tallying biological material and discovering new record-breaking trees, while escaping falling branches and crashing trees in the process. Down below, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Mike Fay charts the redwood range. It is an epic yearlong exploration to size up the past and future of this primeval tree threatened in 21st century California.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Pages 6 to 8 in this Course Syllabus

I encourage students to study together, however each student is expected to individually fulfill the requirements of the assignments and the final exam. Details about the assignments (reflection, worksheets, and storytelling) will be posted on LEARN. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of what constitutes responsible behaviour in class, what constitutes plagiarism, and your rights and responsibilities with respect to these issues.

STUDENT & FACULTY RESOURCES

The Faculty of Environment has an entire webpage <https://uwaterloo.ca/environment/undergraduate-teaching-resources> dedicated to Student Resources including issues surrounding the following topics. Further detailed topics are outlined below:

- Teaching Resources
- Important Dates
- The Course Outline
- Student Privacy
- Academic Integrity
- Group Work
- Scheduling and Administration of Tests and Exams
- International Exchange Students
- Accommodation and Accessibility

ACCOMMODATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Please note that if you are registered with AccessAbility Services <https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/about>, please write your midterm and final exam in accessibility if this is one of the requirements you requested. The instructor has to send a certain number of midterms and final exams to AccessAbility Services several days before the midterm/final exam is written. If you write in the class-room you must let the instructor know about a week ahead of time to ensure that sufficient number of midterms/exams are available.

AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

MENTAL HEALTH (more on this below)

The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students' well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. **Please note that help is available.** Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services> is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more. If you think you are experiencing mental health issues, please see this website for guidance and support: <https://uwaterloo.ca/environment/get-mental-health-support-when-you-need-it> Also see last page of syllabus.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights. Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

GRIEVANCE: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances,

Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

APPEALS: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals)
www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

COMMUNICATIONS WITH INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS: All communication with students must be through either the student's University of Waterloo email account or via Learn. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

TURNITIN: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, and are subject to the USA PATRIOT ACT, 2001; therefore, students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography) if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

RECORDING LECTURES:

Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: facebook, twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

CO-OP INTERVIEWS AND CLASS ATTENDANCE: Co-op students are encouraged to try and choose interview time slots that result in the least amount of disruption to class schedules. When this is challenging, or not possible, a student may miss a portion of a class meeting for an interview. Instructors are asked for leniency in these situations; but, a co-op interview does not relieve the student of any requirements associated with that class meeting.

When a co-op interview conflicts with an in-class evaluation mechanism (e.g., test, quiz, presentation, critique), class attendance takes precedence and the onus is on the student to reschedule the interview. CECA provides an interview conflict procedure to manage these situations. Students will be required to provide copies of their interview schedules (they may be printed from WaterlooWorks) should there be a need to verify class absence due to co-op interviews.

MENTAL HEALTH

Everyone struggles at some point

From transition to university life, to changes in expectations, to relationships, there are a lot of reasons you might seek help for your mental health. 1 in 5 Canadians experience poor mental health in their lifetime. **You are not alone.**

Signs that something might not be quite right

If you notice any of the following situations, consider getting some support:

- Your mood is low for more than two weeks
- You've lost focus or motivation
- You're having difficulty sleeping or your energy levels are poor
- You feel extreme loneliness
- You think about harming yourself
- You feel extreme fear about certain situations

Counselling Services is here to support you

We offer a variety of confidential services at no charge to University of Waterloo students who are currently registered or are on a co-op term. Our mental health professionals are here for you and interested in helping you through whatever you are experiencing. Our regular [hours](#) are Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Emergency appointments

Emergency appointments are available during our regular hours and are provided to any student who is at **immediate risk** of self harm or harming someone else, or have recently experienced a trauma.

Booked appointments

Regular booked appointments can be made and scheduling depends on the urgency of your needs. When you meet with a counsellor they will listen to your concerns and develop a plan that suits your individual situation and needs. This plan could consist of booking a series of regular appointments, readings, meditations, or practical exercises.

Walk-in appointments

Walk-in appointments are available each **Wednesday and Thursday between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.** These appointments are 90-minutes in length and are focused on finding you practical solutions for your most pressing concern.

UW MATES peer counselling

Peer counselling is available on a walk-in or booked basis. [MATES](#) student volunteers are trained by Counselling Services and are available to offer confidential support to students struggling with social issues, mental health issues, and transitioning to university life.

Coping Skills seminars

Over the last couple of years, hundreds of students have found our Coping Skills [seminars](#) valuable. Coping Skills seminars are 1-hour seminars that focus on cultivating resilience, challenging thinking, managing emotions, and changing behaviour. They are offered a variety of times per term and can be registered for on LEADS.

Group therapy and workshops

Our [groups](#) and [workshops](#) provide you with the opportunity to learn more about topics such as: Managing anxiety and stress, regulating emotion, increasing motivation, sustaining recovery from depression, learning to meditate, and much more. Registration is online through LEADS.

More information about all of our services can be found at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services>

After-hours and off campus resources

If you need to speak with someone outside of our regular hours the following resources are available 24/7.

Good2Talk

[Good2Talk](#) is a free confidential help line for post-secondary students.

1-866-925-5454

Grand River Hospital Mental Health Emergency Care

[Grand River Hospital](#) offers 24/7 emergency care for mental health emergencies. 834 King Street West, Kitchener. 519-749-4300 x 6880.

Here 24/7

[Here 24/7](#) is Waterloo Region's Mental Health and Crisis Services team.

1-844-437-3247

WatSAFE app

Download the [WatSAFE](#) app to have access to a list of support contacts at all times.