

P BIO109 – Americans and Their Forests

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Class website: http://www.plantbio.ohiou.edu/epb/instruct/PBIO109_kjb/index.htm

See the website for updates on class schedule, lecture outline, PDF copies of class handouts, and additional materials. It will be updated weekly.

Class meets in 104 Porter at the following times:

M 3:10 – 5 pm << *note this is a two hour day*
 Tu 3:10 – 4 pm
 W 3:10 – 4 pm

COURSE KEY CONCEPTS

There are a number of guiding themes for “Americans and Their Forests” that we will investigate during this course:

- Forests are dynamic biological systems in space and time;
- There are many forest types found in the U.S. – we will explore similarities and differences;
- Humans have interacted with and shaped forests in the past and will continue to do so in the future;
- Forest-use issues are frequently at the fore of local and national politics; How does this affect you? How can you participate?

3 REQUIRED TEXTS and OTHER RESOURCES

1) J. Kricher. A Field Guide to Eastern Forests, North America. 1998. Houghton Mifflin Company, NY NY. ISBN 0-395-92895-8

2) Stephen Pyne. America's Fires: Management on Wildlands and Forests. Publisher: Forest History Society; ISBN: 0890300534

3) Douglas MacCleery. American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery. Publisher: Forest History Society; ISBN: 0890300488

The following books have relevant supplemental material but are **NOT** required (Alden and OhioLink have them, in case you are interested in further readings):

Williams, M. Americans and Their Forests 1989, Cambridge University Press, NY.

Kimmins, H. Balancing Act: Environmental Issues in Forestry, 2nd Ed. University of British Columbia Press.

It is REQUIRED that you purchase an aerial photograph of your home neighborhood from the United States Geological Survey web site:

<http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/>

You will use this recent photograph, and an earlier (ca. 1985) aerial photo of the same location, for a land use change exercise where you will collect data from each image and quantitatively compare land cover types. *(This aerial photo exercise was originally developed by Dr. Glenn Matlack in OU's Department of Environmental and Plant Biology for use in his PBIO109 course.)*

See:

<http://edc.usgs.gov/products/aerial/napp.html>

Instructions for ordering your aerial photograph:

1. Click on "Photofinder" **not** on "Aerial Photography"
http://edcsns17.cr.usgs.gov/finder/finder_main.pl?dataset_name=NAPP
2. Click on "Enter a zip code"
3. Type in the zip code of the place where you grew up; click "search"
4. Click on the black dot nearest your home
5. Choose the most recent black and white (B&W) aerial photo (i.e., 2000-2003) from the list at the bottom of the page. DO NOT choose "CIR".
6. Click on "Add selected items..."
7. Click on "Checkout" and pay.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

It's my job to present you with a collection of ideas and materials that engage you in learning the thematic material of the course (a.k.a. lectures), and you give you timely feedback on your grade in this class. It's your job to read, attend class, discuss, ask for help when you need it -- not the night before the exam, ask questions, do your assignments in a timely manner, and have fun! **Remember, the TA and I are here to help you learn.**

Attendance is not mandatory for this class, but you will find that you perform optimally if you attend class having done the reading, take notes for yourself, participate in class discussion, and ask questions. In some cases, there will be "thought questions" provided online for your consideration when you read material from our textbooks. If you sketch out your ideas to these questions prior to class discussions, you'll find it easy to participate.

This class will have three lecture hours per week and one hour of discussion. This discussion hour will have a wide array of guest speakers that will present their own relationship with forests (or in some cases, a relevant short film). Most guest speakers will be on Mondays – so we will have a lecture, a short break, and then a guest, followed by discussion.

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade will be based on your performance on the following assignments:

<u>Assignment</u>		<u>Dates (TBA)</u>
Exam 1	-	15 %
Exam 2	-	15 %
Exam 3	-	15 %
Field Trip	-	15 %
Aerial Photo Project	-	20 %
Final Exam	-	20 %

Field Trip: You have to attend a field trip (there are two options in Oct) with Dr Brown. The trip will go on, rain or shine. You may attend both, but you have to attend at least ONE. You will have a short in-field assignment based on the trip.

Missed exams: if you are sick, have a medical excuse (i.e., note from Hudson Health); if you are an athlete with an away game, present me with a schedule from your coach. Otherwise, missed exams will *rarely* be allowed to be made up; please make a concerted effort to attend on exam days.

Late assignments: Assignments are due at 3:10 on specified days (see above). Assignments turned in later than that will be regarded as late, with no exceptions. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day they are late.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is defined as “to steal or purloin and pass off as one’s own (the ideas, words, artistic productions, etc., of another); to use without due credit the ideas, expressions or productions of another. From the Greek *plagious*, meaning oblique, crooked, treacherous.” Webster’s New International Dictionary, 2nd ed.

This means that you cannot turn in someone else’s work as your own, look onto someone else’s exam, or write or speak someone else’s words without giving them the appropriate credit. **If I detect a violation of this code you will receive a F for the course and the Office of University Judiciaries will be notified.**

See Student Code of Conduct HERE:

<http://www.ohio.edu/judiciaries/>