Forestry 470:
Forests and Society

Instructor: Dr. David Tindall
Teaching Assistant: Lisa Cashel

3 Credits Fall 2006 SECTION #: 101

LECTURES: TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:30pm (September-November 2006)

LOCATION: Forest Sciences Centre Room 1003

LAB/TUTORIALS 9:00am-10:00am in Buchanan B111 on the following days:

Thursday Sept 21st, October 12th, October 26th, November 9th.

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an overview of concepts, theories, and research methods relevant to studying social aspects of forestry, and forest communities. The class will also examine empirical social science research on forestry topics such as understanding: the factors that underlie participation in the environmental movement, the response of natural resource-based communities to environmentalism, how environmental and natural resource issues are socially constructed, the political-economic structure of natural resource issues, natural resource communities and social sustainability, natural resource commons, values and attitudes associated with environmental and natural resource issues, the relationship of gender to environmental and natural resource issues. We may also consider urban forestry, forest recreation, and/or forest issues in an international context.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

One objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of basic social science concepts, theories, and methods relevant to studying social issues related to forests, forestry, and forest communities. A parallel objective is to provide exposure to a variety of social issues pertaining to forests, forestry, and forestry communities.

This course provides a breadth of information on social science and forestry. The core knowledge presented in this course will help prepare future operational foresters in thinking about managing for non-timber values, will help future managers understand the nature of public opinion and concern regarding forestry issues, and help future policy makers understand changes in public values related to forestry. Material presented throughout the course will facilitate BSF graduates in understanding, and communicating with, the public.

While economics is an important discipline within the social sciences, economic concepts, theories and methods are introduced elsewhere in the program. Thus, this course will focus primarily on research from other disciplines (sociology, anthropology, political science, etc.). Also, while studies of Aboriginal issues in forestry is an important area of social science research, this area will not be given a
central focus in this class as there is a separate course in the program focussing on Aboriginal issues (Conservation 370).

**FORMAT:** The lecture sessions will be primarily lecture format, but there will also be regular student discussion group sessions, mini in-class exercises, some guest lectures, and some videos. There will also be 4 lab sessions involving instruction about research methods, computer programs, web resources, and how to access data for secondary analysis of communities (and other social data).

**PRE-REQUISITES:** There are no prerequisites for this course.

**COURSE WEB SITE:** [http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/tindall/frst470/](http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/tindall/frst470/)

Handouts and select overheads and slides from class lectures and labs will be posted on the course website. Class grades will also be posted on the website. Note: I am planning to do some website development this term, and the URL for the course website may change.

**E-MAIL:** At the beginning of the term you will be asked for your e-mail address, as announcements regarding the class will be distributed via e-mail. It is your responsibility to provide the instructor with your current e-mail, and to read your e-mail on a regular basis. Essential information about the course will be distributed from time to time via e-mail. (UBC provides you with a free e-mail account, and free access on campus – so there is no reason why this should be a problem. It is advised that you use a UBC account for your e-mail rather than a hotmail or yahoo account as there are sometimes problems with communications between UBC and hotmail/yahoo.)

To sign up for a UBC student e-mail account (NETINFO) go to:

[https://web.interchange.ubc.ca/account/register.cfm](https://web.interchange.ubc.ca/account/register.cfm)

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

* Custom Photocopy Package for Forestry 470 – to be purchased from the UBC Bookstore.

* Required readings and recommended textbooks will also be put on reserve in the MacMillan library and/or the Koerner Library (some items, such as the recommended textbooks, may be on reserve in Koerner, so it is best to double check their location before going to the library).

* Additional readings may also be announced in class and put on reserve.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**


RECOMMENDED READINGS:

* Recommended readings have been listed on the course outline for those students who would like to read more about a particular topic. You will not be tested directly on the recommended readings, but you may utilize them for your term paper, or final exam. These may also provide a starting point as literature for those who are planning to write a term paper. Also, some recommended readings may be reviewed in lectures.

EVALUATION

Each student will have the choice of evaluation option A or evaluation B. Option B provides the opportunity to write a term paper on a topic related to one of the main themes of the course, and places less weight on the exams. Option B probably requires more overall work than option A – but I thought it would be useful to provide students with a term paper option in the event that they are particularly interested in a social forestry topic, and wish to explore it in greater depth.

EVALUATION OPTION A (No Term Paper):

• 20% Participation (in discussion groups during lecture sessions) and mini-exercises.

• 20% Midterm exam.

• 55% Final exam.

• 5% Labs.

EVALUATION OPTION B (Term Paper Option):

• 20% Participation (in discussion groups during lecture sessions) and mini-exercises.

• 10% Midterm exam.

• 10% Final exam.

• 5% Labs.

• 55% Term Paper.
Participation and mini-exercises. From time to time the class will be organized into a number of smaller discussion groups where students will discuss assigned topics, problem solve, and in some cases report back to the class. Attendance will be taken at discussion groups, and this will be used for calculating the participation grade.

Also, on occasion, short in-class exercises will be distributed. These will be marked on a pass/fail basis.

Exams. There will be two exams for the course (one midterm, and one final). Coverage for the exams will include both readings and lecture/lab material.

The midterm exam will be multiple choice format.

The final exam will involve a multiple choice section and an essay section.

Those students who choose evaluation option B (the term paper option) will not be required to write the essay section of the final.

Labs.

Attendance at, and participation in, the labs is required, and is part of your mark.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance at the lectures and labs is required. Lecture and lab material is intended to complement, and in some cases, reinforce material presented in the readings – not to duplicate the readings. Exams will be based both on lecture/lab material and readings.

OFFICE HOURS:

David Tindall: Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment.  
Office: Forest Sciences Centre Room 2024  
Phone: 604-822-2550  
E-mail: tindall@interchange.ubc.ca

Lisa Cashel Hours: TBA.  
Office: TBA.  
E-mail: lcashel@interchange.ubc.ca
IMPORTANT DATES:

- September 6th: First class.
- October 9th: Thanksgiving – No Class.
- October 18th: Midterm Exam.
- November 29th: Last day of class.
- November 29th: Term paper due, for those who are submitting a term paper.
- Exam period: Final Exam.

SCHEDULE.

On the following pages a listing of topics and readings is provided. The topics will be covered roughly in the sequence provided. These dates may vary depending on our rate of progress through the material, and upon visits by guest lecturers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Lecture Topic/Dates</th>
<th>Lecture Readings</th>
<th>Lab Location/Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>• None.</td>
<td>• No Lab.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• September 6th</td>
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<td>• September 11th</td>
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<td>• September 13th</td>
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<td>• September 20th</td>
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<td>Week #</td>
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| 4      | **Explanation in the Social Sciences**  
  • September 25th  
• No Lab. |
| 5      | **The Social Construction of Environmental Issues**  
  • October 2nd  
• No Lab. |
| 6      | **Thanksgiving/The Social Construction of Environmental Issues (Continued).**  
  • October 9th: No class  
  • October 11th | • See topic readings from previous week.  
• No class on October 9th due to Thanksgiving holiday.  
• Lab #2  
  October 12th  
  Buchanan B111 |
| 7      | **Social Research Methods /Midterm Exam**  
  • October 16th  
• Midterm Exam: October 18th  
• No Lab. |
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October 26th  
Buchanan B111 |
November 9th  
Buchanan B111 |
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Remembrance Day/ The Environmental Movement and Environmental Politics (Continued)</td>
<td>• See topic readings from previous week.</td>
<td>• No lab.</td>
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<td>• No class on November 13\textsuperscript{th} due to the Remembrance Day Holiday.</td>
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<td>• November 13\textsuperscript{th}: No class.</td>
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<td>• November 15\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Natural Resource Based Communities and Social Sustainability</td>
<td>• Beckley, T.M. 1995. “Community Stability and the Relationship Between Economic and Social Well-Being in Forest-Dependent Communities.” <em>Society and Natural Resources</em> 8(3):261-266.</td>
<td>• No Lab.</td>
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<td>Week #</td>
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| 13    | **Selected Topics /Wrap Up**  
  - November 27th  
  - November 29th  
  * Term papers are due on November 29th for those students who are submitting a term paper. |  
  - No Lab. |
RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):

INTRODUCTION


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):


THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES


THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):


THE COMMONS


VALUES AND ATTITUDES


Bruson, Mark W. and Bruce A. Shindler. 2004. “Geographic Variation in Social Acceptability of Wildland Fuels Management in the Western United States.” Society and Natural Resources 17:661-678.


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):


**GENDER**


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):


RESOURCE COMMUNITIES


SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND SOCIAL INDICATORS RESEARCH


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):

THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS


RECOMMENDED (FURTHER READING ON THE TOPIC):


Wall, Derek. 1999. “Mobilising Earth First! In Britain.” Environmental Politics 8(1):81-100.