

Introduction to Forestry Field Skills

SYLLABUS – FORS 130 – FALL 2023

Instructor: John Goodburn

Office location: 201A Forestry Bldg.

E-mail: john.goodburn@umontana.edu (email best to reach Instructor or text cell @ 406-370-7257)

Office hours: Monday & Tuesdays 11:00am – 12:00pm or by appointment at good time for you.

Teaching Assistant: Fin Malone: fin.malone@umontana.edu:

Office hours: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM on Monday or by appointment

Meeting Times & Locations:

ALL STUDENTS ATTEND Tues Lecture

Tuesday Lecture 2:00 - 2:50PM, Rm 131 CHCB (Clapp Building)

And One Lab of the following lab periods:

Wednesday Afternoon Lab Group: 2:30 – 4:50 pm - FOR Rm 206 (Sec 01)

Thursday Morning Lab Group: 8:30 – 10:50 am - FOR Rm 206 (Sec 03)

Friday Morning Lab Group: 8:30 – 10:50 am - FOR Rm 106 (Sec 04)

Friday Afternoon Lab Group: 2:00 – 4:20 pm - FOR Rm 206 (Sec 02)

Course Objectives: This course is focused on introducing students to forestry and developing natural resources field techniques through experiential learning on campus and in the field. Our objective is to provide classroom and field experiences that introduce students to dendrology, orienteering, map reading, tree measurements, and safe travel and teamwork in the field.

Required Text: No required textbook. PDFs of reading resources and some field manual chapters will be provided from “Forest Measurements: An Applied Approach” by J. DeYoung.

Required Field Equipment to Buy: mirror sighting compass similar to model [Silva® Ranger® 2.0 Azimuth Compass](#) or [Suunto MC-2 Compass Azimuth](#). Which importantly have a declination adjustment feature, Azimuth markings (not Quadrant), and a sighting mirror design. (These compasses are available for purchase online via following links to Forestry Suppliers or

alternative online sources: Silva® Ranger® 2.0 Azimuth Compass - https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product_pages/products.php?mi=12963&itemnum=37038; Suunto MC-2 Compass Azimuth - https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/product_pages/products.php?mi=12921&itemnum=37184).

Requirements: Students should attend all class sessions, unless pre-approved. All or part of lab meetings will often occur outside. Students must come prepared with proper clothing given the expected weather forecast (e.g., boots, warm clothes, hats/gloves, rain gear). Temperatures can be significantly cooler at field locations and students should plan accordingly. Necessary equipment will be also provided, but please bring clipboard, paper and pencil/pens.

Labs

Weekly Field labs will generally include exercises conducted outside (whether on campus or off-site), so please always wear appropriate field clothes and closed-toe shoes to labs. If rain is forecast, bring rain gear and do not expect lab to be canceled on account of bad weather.

Lab Attendance: Attendance at scheduled lab sessions is expected, and unexcused absences could negatively affect your grade. **Please notify me as soon as possible if you will be unable to attend for some reason**, and we can try to make alternative arrangement.

* Please be on time for lab. If running late, please call or text me at my cell (406-370-7257).

**We will generally meet to convene for labs in the assigned classroom for lab section

*****For Off-Campus Lab Locations, we may arrange to meet instead at the Campus Security office (east of Griz Stadium) where we will board vehicles.**

Tentative Course Schedule of Topics

Week/Date and Topic

Week 1 (8/29): Introductions: Place, Pace, and Space.

Setting your Pace to estimate Distance and Area. Location: On-Campus - Arboretum

Week 2 (9/5): Tree Identification of key tree species of the Northern Rockies; introduction to the use of clinometer for measuring slope and tree heights. Location: **Off-Campus** - Pattee Canyon

Week 3 (9/12): - Compass use, Orienteering, and Topographic maps. **Location: On-Campus**

Week 4 (9/19): Measuring slope profiles and determining elevational change & Horizontal Map distance in field & on Topographic maps. **Location Off-campus Blue Mountain**

Week 5 (9/26) Forest Ecology - Effects of Slope Aspect and site. Nested Fixed Area Plot sampling on two aspect. **Location Off-campus Rattlesnake NRA**

Week 6 (10/3): Urban Forestry **Location Off-campus** – Missoula Valley

Week 7 (10/10): Forest Inventory Measures Practicum in Groups Location: On-Campus

Week 8 (10/17): Forest Growth & Change & Other Measures of Forest Ecosystems **Location Off-campus**

Week 9 (10/24): Writing Center Review & PRACTICE Field Practicum. Location: on-Campus

Week 10 (10/31): Final Field Practicum Location: TBA Location: on-Campus

Week 11 (11/7): Review and Final Written Exam Location: TBA

Grading: This course is offered for traditional letter grade – it is not offered under the credit/no credit option. This course will be graded on the following grading scale: 93-100 (A), 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86(B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 73-76 (C), 70-72 (C-), 60-69 (D), <60 (F)

Grades will be assigned based on the following rubric:

- 10% - Attendance and Participation
- 35% - Field Exercise problem sets: (~weekly assignments)
- 30% - Moodle Homework Problems/Quizzes (~ weekly)
- 25% - Final/Field Practicum exam

Class Participation

Class participation is encouraged and will be incorporated into your grade. Your preparation and willingness to ask questions and discuss various topics will benefit not only your own learning experience, but also that of your colleagues in the class. Please feel free to ask questions and initiate discussions both in and out of class.

I will be available during office hours or at other times if you wish to schedule an alternative time. Also feel free to contact me or clarify questions you have via email. No need to wait until *after* an exam to ask questions!

Special Accommodations

Students with disabilities who need accommodations can please contact me after class, during my office hours, or via email to arrange accommodations.

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction for students with disabilities in collaboration with instructors and consult the Office of Disability Equity, located in Aber Hall. The University does not permit fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult the Office of Disability Equity (ODE)- <https://www.umt.edu/disability/>

UM Course Policies:

Students at the University of Montana have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that positively impacts the safety, welfare, or educational opportunities of others in the University community. Students are expected to act as responsible members of the community, respect the rights, privileges, and dignity of others, and refrain from actions that infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with normal University activities.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. <https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>

CLASS REGISTRATION, ADDS, DROPS, CHANGES, ETC.

Autumn Semester 2023: <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar/autumn.php>

Important UM deadlines for changing course options:

Date	Description
To 15 th instructional day (Sept 18 th 5pm)	<p>Autumn class day 15:</p> <p>Last day to drop individual classes on CyberBear with no W on transcript; refunds where applicable.</p> <p>Last day to withdraw from the semester (drop all courses) with a partial refund. See semester withdrawal website for details and withdrawal form.</p> <p>Last day to add classes with digital registration override on CyberBear.</p> <p>Last day to change credits in variable credit courses & switch grade mode in CyberBear without instructor's consent.</p> <p>Tuition and fees are billed as usual for additional credits or newly added courses.</p> <p>Last day to change grading option to or from audit.</p> <p>Last day to buy or refuse UM's student health insurance coverage.</p>
16 th to 45 th instructional day Sept. 19–Oct. 30, 2023 (5 p.m.)	<p>Autumn class day 16 - 45:</p> <p>Course adds & drops require instructor's & advisor's approval using the Course Add/Change/Drop link in CyberBear.</p> <p>\$20 fee applies per add or drop.</p> <p>A W will appear on the transcript for dropped classes.</p> <p>No refunds for course drops or withdrawals.</p> <p>Students can change variable credit amounts and grading options (except audit) on eligible courses using the Course Add/Change/Drop link in CyberBear.</p> <p>Tuition and fees are billed as usual for additional credits or newly added courses.</p>
Beginning 46 th instructional day Oct 31- Dec 8, 2023	<p>Autumn class day 46 - last class day:</p> <p>Course adds require instructor's and advisor's approval using the Course Add/Change/Drop link. \$20 fee applies.</p> <p>Drops require instructor's, advisor's, and Dean's approval via Course Add/Change/Drop link. \$20 fee applies.</p> <p>A WP or WF will appear on the transcript for dropped classes.</p> <p>No refunds for course drops or withdrawals.</p> <p>Students can change variable credit amounts, or change grading options, (except audit) using the Course Add Change Drop link in Cyberbear.</p> <p>Tuition and fees are billed as usual for additional credits or newly added courses.</p>