Spring 2008  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
FRS 5203: HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Instructor: Dr. Sayeed Mehmood  
Class Schedule: W 1:30 – 4:30 PM  
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM; or by appointment  
Office Location: Room 206; Forest Resources Complex  
Phone: 460-1894 (Office); 723-6067 (Cell); 367-1652 (Home)  
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Web site: http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/mehmoods/

Course Objectives:

Students are expected to learn about the interaction between humans and the natural environment, how society’s values and choices influence natural resources, issues along the wildland-urban interface, and natural resource dispute resolution. The students are expected to explore these issues through their survey of current scholarly research in the general area of human dimensions in natural resources. Specifically, the students are expected to achieve the following learning objectives by the end of the semester:

1. Ability to recognize how social, political, cultural, and economic factors influence human interaction with natural resources.
2. Ability to think critically about important human dimensions issues.
3. Ability to analyze and write logically about important human dimensions issues.

Text:

Rather than using one textbook, this course will utilize a number of books and articles published in scholarly journals. A list of these readings is presented at the end of this syllabus.

Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article summaries</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Professionalism</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Grand Total: 100%  

Assessment of Student Learning:

Assessment of student learning for this course will be performed through evaluation of class discussions, mid-term exam, weekly writing assignments, and the research paper. Students will receive ample feedback from the instructor throughout the semester regarding their performance in each of these areas.
Notes on Lectures and Grading:

The class will meet once a week for class discussion. You are expected to attend these sessions, unless you have a valid reason to miss a meeting. If you know that you are going to meet a meeting, please let me know.

My office hours are listed on the first page of this syllabus. If you need to see me outside of office hours, you are welcome to call or e-mail and see if I am available, or you may just knock on my door. I will do my best to help you in any way I can. In case I am unable to see you right away, I will set up a time that is convenient for both of us. If you need to reach me in the evenings, please feel free to call my cell or at home, but please do so before 9 PM. If I am not in, leave a message and I will call you back. But please be considerate and use this option wisely.

You will have a mid-term exam in this course. This will be a take home exam. You will have a week to return your answers to me. Your answers should be type-written and double-spaced. You are highly encouraged to do further research before you answer these questions. There will not be a final exam for this class.

You will be assigned weekly reading(s) (A list of these readings is included in this syllabus. These readings will comprise of published journal articles, or excerpt(s) from a book. You will have one week to review the assigned reading(s) and write a 1-2 page summary. The summary should include the subject matter, methodology employed (if any), and principal findings (if any), and policy implications of the reading.

You are also required to write a research paper on a current and relevant human dimensions issue. You are welcome to (and probably should) seek my input on your choice of a topic for this paper. The paper should be well-written and be based on your extensive research on the topic. Since a substantial portion of your grade for this course depends on this paper, I expect you to produce a document that is comparable in quality to articles presented in professional scholarly journals.

All materials you submit should be your own. Any form of dishonesty or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with harshly. I reserve the right to penalize one or more letter grades, or even to withdraw the student from the course for such an offence.

Please note that UAM will no longer mail grade reports to all students. You may access your grades through Campus Connect on the UAM homepage, http://www.uamont.edu/. To have your grades mailed to you, complete the grade request form available in the Registrar’s Office in Monticello or the Student Services offices in Crossett and McGehee.
Course web site:

This course will have a web site where announcements and a variety of other helpful materials will be posted. The site can be accessed from my web page mentioned on the first page of this syllabus. Just click on “Courses” on the left frame and then click on the name of this course. Please check this site often.

Professionalism:

Students in the School of Forest Resources are pursuing courses of study that prepare them for careers as natural resources professionals. Professional education is much more than technical training and encompasses professional resource education as well as general education, social science and humanities courses. Collectively, these subjects constitute professional education.

Since the School is dedicated to professional education rather than technical training, the faculty and staff have certain expectations of themselves and of SFR students with regard to professionalism and personal conduct in their preparation for careers in the natural resource professions. Thus, SFR students and faculty are expected to exhibit conduct and attitudes appropriate to professionals.

Conduct and attitudes appropriate for professionals include, but are not restricted to,

1. The UA-M Code of Student Conduct published in the University catalog,
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.

Instructors reserve the right to reduce student grades or withdraw the student from class for unprofessional behavior. Disorderly conduct or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in the School of Forest Resources. Such conduct may result in dismissal from classes.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the policy of the University of Arkansas at Monticello to accommodate individuals with disabilities pursuant to federal law and the University’s commitment to equal educational opportunities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any necessary accommodations at the beginning of the course. Any student requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Special Student Services located in Harris Hall Room 120; phone 870 460-1026; TDD 870 460-1626; Fax 870 460-1926.
Class schedule:

1/9/2008

Introduction; explanation of the syllabus.

1/23/2008

Defining human dimensions; Constructing a human dimensions model.

Assigned readings:


1/30/2008

History of forest and wildlife conservation.

Assigned readings:


2/6/2008

Understanding sustainability; temporal aspects of forest sustainability; forest certification; the Montreal Process

Assigned readings:


2/13/2008

Understanding and working with stakeholders.

Assigned readings:

White, D., S. Parker, and M. Cartwright. Elk in Arkansas: A Valuable Natural Resource or Intolerable Pest?
2/20/2008

Valuing natural resources; types of value concepts; estimating resource values.

Assigned readings:


2/27/2008

A look at national and regional surveys of forest-based recreation.

Assigned readings:


3/5/2008

Issues along the wildland-urban interface; Defining WUI; Examples of WUI issues—deer-vehicle collisions, forest fragmentation

Assigned readings:


3/12/2008

Natural resource conflict resolution.

Assigned readings:


3/19/2008

Spring break—no class.
3/26/2008

Global natural resource issues; climate change.

Hand out mid-term exam.

Assigned readings:


4/2/2008

Mid-term exam due. Discussion on research paper.