

Course requirements:

**I. Two scientific papers and one class presentation**

1. Independent Project scientific paper (35% of final grade).
2. Allegheny National Forest lab report (30%).
3. Class presentation of your independent project (10%).

**II. Final exam:**

1. Final (25%). You are responsible for information presented during all field trips, all lectures and all the chapters in the textbook.

**Late assignments handed in after the deadline immediately lose one letter grade, followed by the loss of one additional letter grade per day**

Text: Yahner, Richard. 2000. Eastern Deciduous Forest: Ecology and Wildlife Conservation. Univ. of Minnesota Press. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition.

Meeting place: The van will leave the housing site at 8:50 in the morning unless otherwise specified on the syllabus. For those students who are commuting, please go directly to the lab site.

Monday, May 14:

9:00-10:30: Introduction to the course and hypothesis testing and question asking in Forest Ecology.

10:30 – 11:30: Independent projects.

1:00 - 2:00: Forest succession lecture.

2:00 – 5:00: Forest ecology video series.

Evening: Begin reading textbook and planning independent projects.

Tuesday May 15:

9:00 – 10:30: Lecture: Disturbance and forest dynamics.

10:30 – Noon: Independent Projects.

1:00 – 2:30. Independent Projects. **A short 1-page description of your independent project is due at 2:30 PM.**

2:30 – 4:30: Lecture: Introduction to Statistics Part I and II.

Wednesday, May 16:

8:30: Depart from the dining hall for the Allegheny National Forest (ANF).

10:30 - Noon: Field excursion: Hearts Content Old-Growth Forest.

1:30 – 4:30: Field excursion: Tionesta Scenic Area and Rock Refugia Gardens.

5:30: Lecture: William Snyder, US Forest Service: Invasive and exotic species  
in the ANF.

7:45: Lecture: Dr. Alex Royo, US Forest Service: Browsing, apparent  
competition and forest regeneration in the ANF.

Thursday, May 17:

All Day: ANF Research Study: The impact of 40 years of deer exclusion on a  
forest understory: The Latham plot.

7:30 pm: Lecture: Dr. Todd Ristau: Implications of forest management and  
browsing for forest herbs.

Friday, May 18:

Morning: Continue ANF Research Study if necessary.

10:30 pm: Lecture: Dr. Susan Stout, US Forest Service, Land use and history of  
the ANF region.

Noon. Return trip to PLE and arrive around 2:30 pm.

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 – 20.

Homework: Continue Reading Yahner, independent projects and ANF study.

Monday May 21:

All day: Work on ANF scientific paper.

Tuesday, May 22:

All day: Work on ANF scientific paper.

**ANF paper due at 5:00 pm**

7:30: Lecture/Seminar: Dr. Eric Heitzman, West Virginia University: Research in Forest Stand Dynamics at West Virginia University.

Wednesday, May 23:

8:30 – 9:30: Lecture Dr. Eric Heitzman, WVU: Silviculture: Applied Forest Ecology.

9:30 – noon. Field project led by Dr. Eric Heitzman: Preparing a forest for harvest.

1:00 – 2:30: Lecture by Tom Pendergast, Univ. of Pittsburgh: The ecology of mycorrhiza.

2:30 – 5:00: Field project led by Tom Pendergast.

Thursday, May 24:

All Day: Old-growth forest ecology and conservation (subject to change).

Friday, Friday May 25:

All Day: Independent projects: Each student will meet with Dr. Carson for 15 minutes beginning at 8:30 am. (subject to change).

Saturday and Sunday May 26 and 27

Homework: Independent projects. PLEASE USE THIS TIME WISELY!

Monday, May 28:

No class: Memorial Day. PLEASE USE THIS TIME WISELY!

Tuesday, May 29th:

7:00: Leave for the Monongahela National Forest, WV. Depart from the dining hall area.

Noon : Field excursion and lecture, Dr. Beth Adams, US forest Service:  
Experimental studies of eutrophication at the Fernow experiment Station.

7:00 pm Lecture: Walter Carson: Factors controlling forest change in the  
Monongahela National Forest: fire, canopy gaps, and herbivory.

Wednesday, May 30:

8:00: Field excursion: "Forest ecology and harvesting forest resources: the views  
and practices of the timber industry" by Dr. Mark Ford, Wildlife Biologist,  
US Forest Service.

1:00: Field excursion: Failure of oaks to regenerate: testing an unsolved mystery  
with a large field experiment.

7:00 Return to PLE.

Thursday, May 31:

9:00 – 12:00: Work on independent projects and class presentations.

1:00 – 3:00 **Class presentations**

3:00 – Study for final

Friday, June 1:

**10:00 am: Final Exam.**

**4:00 pm: Independent project scientific paper due.**