

SFR 108 – Introduction to Arboriculture and Community Forestry
Syllabus and Course Description

School of Forest Resources

University of Maine - Orono

SFR 108 - Introduction to Arboriculture and Community Forestry

Introductory course in arboriculture (study of trees on an individual basis) and community forestry (management of trees in a community/urban setting). The student studies the management of the urban/community forests, the people interaction/dynamics when dealing with community trees, and the development and purpose of a community forestry management plan. The course includes identifying valuable features, growth habits, and cultural requirements of urban trees and shrubs.

Prerequisites: None

Course Typically Offered: Fall/Spring (every year)

Lecture 3 credits

Instructor and Contact Information

tish carr. Corbett Hall; Room 215: phone 207.485.0219 email: tish.carr@maine.edu

(Messages/assignments can be left with the administrative assistants in Rm 201 Nutting Hall.)

Office Hours: To be determined

Instructional Materials and Methods

To be announced

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course the learner will be able to:

- 🌳 Describe the benefits and costs of urban forest ecosystem
- 🌳 Explain community planning, design and the interplay with the natural environment
- 🌳 Describe the basic concepts of community involvement in community forestry programs
- 🌳 Explain the basic concepts of tree law
- 🌳 Identify tree and shrub species by various plant characteristics
- 🌳 Evaluate nursery stock for quality specimens
- 🌳 Evaluate sites for appropriate species and planting locations
- 🌳 Discuss soil and water relationships and their roles in tree establishment and growth

- 🌳 Record observations and measurements leading to assessing tree values and tree inventory and management
- 🌳 Explain the proper use and placement of tree support systems
- 🌳 Identify insect and disease presence on trees and shrubs and control measures to limit plant damage
- 🌳 Achieve proficiency toward successful completion of the Maine Arborist's licensing exam and/or ISA Certified Arborist exam

Grading and Course Expectations

Course instruction is on-line using BlackBoard. Readings come from text books or copies of articles that are placed on e-reserve at the library. Quizzes or tests may be utilized as a means of assessment. The assessment format is multiple choice or similar type questions that can be graded by the computer. Questions can be submitted through BlackBoard or by email to the instructor. There is one mid-term exam and one final exam that use a short answer/written format. Essays may be a part of the assessment and will be graded separately. Students will be instructed on how to make arrangements to take the exam at an assigned time through BlackBoard. Make-up quizzes and exams generally are not allowed; exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Discussions will be a key aspect of this course. Being able to illicit clearly and by means of supporting documentation one's thoughts or ideas within the discussion will be paramount. This includes Discussion Board assignments, general discussions and material posted through Hangout/Adobe Connect, Wiki or the Blog.

The on-line lecture portion is designed to give a wide range of students an overview of the interrelationship trees and people have within a community concept. Because e-learning involves electronic communication, please make sure that you visit the course site at least once a day to view new announcements. It is important to read e-mail daily to peruse course information disseminated via this medium. Second, you are responsible for ensuring that submitted course assignments either via e-mail or on CD or disk, are virus-free. Files that fail UM's virus checker software will not be opened or accepted. You will be notified if this is the case.

Ignorance of course policies set forth in the syllabus or posted elsewhere on the course site is not an excuse for failure to conform to these policies.

It would also be in the student's best interest and beneficial if students keep a copy of all graded work, just in case a technology failure destroys an on-line grade book and grades have to be recreated.

There is an optional lab, SFR 109 – Introduction to Arboriculture Lab, that is hands-on and designed for students that wish to take the Maine Licensed Arborist exam or the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) exam.

Grades will be determined by the total points earned divided by those assigned, and will be based on the following:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 88-89
B: 83-87
B-: 80-82
C+: 78-79
C: 73-77
C-: 70-72
D: 60-69
F: 0-59

Assessments based on weekly discussions account for 10% of the grade, discussion board assignments constitutes 15% of your grade. Discussion board grades will be based on a rubric that will be provided for the relevant discussion. The final group project constitutes 25% of the grade. Participation in Hangouts/Adobe Connect, Blog or Wiki assignments constitutes 20% of the grade. The balance, 30% of the grade is for the mid-term (15%) and the final (15%).

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Students with disabilities statement: If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Ann Smith, Director of Disabilities Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause): In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

IT Assistance: In the event that you are having difficulty accessing any of the on-line material, contact the IT help desk at 1.877.947.4357. It would be beneficial to notify the instructor as well of any difficulties to expedite resolution.

Course Schedule (tentative)

NOTE: Discussion Board Assignments due the Friday of the class week, unless otherwise noted by 5 pm EST on that Friday.

TOPIC

Week 1 (9/4 - 9/7) Introduction, history, understanding the benefits of urban/community forest ecosystem (Discussion due September, 7; 1 pt.)

Week 2 (9/10 - 9/14) Who, what, where and why of planting the right tree in the right spot and giving it room to grow (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Week 3 (9/17 - 9/21) Tree Physiology; Proper pruning (Discussion due September, 21; 2 pts)

Week 4 (9/24 - 9/28) Tree identification (No discussion due)

Week 5 (10/1 - 10/5) Community Tree Inventory, purpose and mechanics: Trees, Utilities, Sidewalks and Hazards (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Introduce group project which will be 25% of final grade

Week 6 (10/8 - 10/12) Cont. Community Tree Inventory and begin Hazard Tree Assessments purpose and mechanics (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Week 7 (10/15 - 10/19) Complete Hazard Tree Assessments (Discussion due October 19, 3 pts)

***On-Line Mid Term Exam (available Wednesday October 10, 6 am to Friday, October 19, 5 pm) ***

Week 8 (10/22 - 10/26) Urban and community forestry: planning and design and the interplay with the natural environment (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Week 9 (10/29 - 11/2) Complete urban and community forestry: planning and design and the interplay with the natural environment (Discussion due November 2; 3pts)

Week 10 (11/5 - 11/9) Community Involvement, planting politics (Discussion due November 9; 3 pts)

Week 11 (11/12 - 11/16) Cabling & Bracing (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Week 12 (11/19- 11/23) Tree Law (Hangout opportunity to be scheduled this week.)

Week 13 (11/26 - 11/30) Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 (12/3 - 12/7) Finish Tree Law (Discussion due December 7, 3 pts);

Week 15 (12/10 - 12/14) Wrap Up, Review, Questions?

Week 16 (12/17 – 12/21) Finals Week

On-Line Final Exam will be posted Monday 12/17 at 6 am and will end Wednesday 12/19 at 5 pm

*****Group Presentations due by Friday, December 21 at 5 pm. *****