



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture
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FORS 2319-001: Dendrology, Fall 2023

FORS 2019-020: Dendrology Lab, Fall 2023

FORS 2019-021: Dendrology Lab, Fall 2023

Course Details

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Stovall

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Office: 214 Forestry

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistants: Jason Lanza
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Generally, I maintain an open-door policy, and keep a schedule posted by my door. My desk is in the back room, so come on in if the door is open. Please feel free to stop by my office whenever. If you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by email. I check email frequently and reply as soon as possible, within 24 hours M - F at most. Please contact me (not the TAs) regarding concerns about your grade or absences.

Class: 11:00am – 11:50am Tuesday and Thursday, Forestry 222

Lab: 1:00pm – 3:50pm Wednesday, Forestry 102; **or**
 2:00pm – 4:50pm Thursday, Forestry 102

Course Description

FORS 2319. Dendrology - 3 semester hours, 2 hours lecture and 3 hours lab per week. Identification, distribution and silvical characteristics of angiosperms and gymnosperms. Required field trips.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest ecology and biology;
2. Demonstrate understanding and competency in the measurement of forest resources;
3. Demonstrate understanding and competency in managing forest resources;
4. Demonstrate understanding and competency of forest resource policy, economics, and administration.
5. Demonstrate understanding and competency in oral and written communication skills.

*Items #1 - #4 above are required by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.

*This is not a General Education Core Course

B.S. Forestry Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels					
Course	PLO 1 Forest Ecology & Biology	PLO 2 Forest Resource Measurement	PLO 3 Forest Resource Management	PLO 4 Forest Resource Policy, Economics, Administration	PLO 5 Oral & Written Communication Skills
FORS 2319	I	B	B	B	I

B – Basic – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with fundamental information, definitions, concepts, and lab activities relative to the expected outcomes.

I – Intermediate – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with topic-specific information, concepts, applications, and lab activities that increase the students’ skills in making tactical implementation decisions relative to the expected outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of this course, successful students will:

1. Identify common native and introduced woody plant species of east Texas in the field year-round (PLO 1).
2. Describe important tree species from North America and around the world (PLO 1, 3, 4).
3. Identify unknown woody specimens using textbooks, field guides, and electronic resources (PLO 1, 2).
4. Explain how morphology (leaf, twig, flower, fruit, bark, form) varies among & within species (PLO 1, 2).
5. Organize species based on morphology or phylogeny (PLO 1).
6. Produce and deliver an organized and engaging public presentation (PLO 5).

Text and Materials

- **REQUIRED:** Kershner, Mathews, Nelson, and Spellenberg. Field Guide to Trees of North America, 1st Edition (ISBN 1402738757)
- **RECOMMENDED:** Nixon. Trees, Shrubs, & Woody Vines of East Texas, 3rd Edition (ISBN 0934115109)
 - Available at bookstore or from Bruce Cunningham: <https://forester-artist.com/product/book-trees-east-texas/>
- **RECOMMENDED:** Fountain et al. Winter Key to Deciduous Woody Plants of East Texas (ISBN 9780934115049) *This text is usually cheapest if you buy it from the Forestry front office.
- **REQUIRED:** A clip board or binder with capacity to store material out of sight.
- A small sharp knife.
- A hard hat.
- Appropriate clothing and boots for the field.

Course Website

Dendrology will be managed through the course website, which can be found at: www.SFAdendro.com.

Lecture notes, course documents, lab documents, and grades will all be available on the course website. Additionally, there are numerous study tools available, including image quizzes, videos and photographs of lab species, links to other useful dendrology resources, past exams, and species lists for exams. We'll review these tools in class.

Course Requirements

In Class Exams (Midterms and Final Exam): Will be cumulative written tests focused primarily on the material since the last exam with fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, or essay format questions which may include drawing and labeling diagrams. Past exams and species lists are available on the course website. Unlimited pages of handwritten notes can be used on the second midterm and the final exam. There can be no computer generated material on the notes, and you must initial or sign the middle of each page in pen. You keep all your notes.

Presentation: This assignment will be explained in detail later in the semester. This will be a presentation on one or two tree species from other regions in North America. Presentation materials (PowerPoint slides, handouts, etc.) will be due for everyone via email or by using the Dropbox folder in Brightspace D2L by Thursday, October 19 at 11:00am, regardless of when you present. During a later class each presenter will then sign up for a practice run with me. You are allowed to revise your slides both before and after the practice run.

Lab Quizzes: During labs we will intermittently stop at 'quiz trees'. At each quiz tree the student will identify in writing the FAMILY (2 pts), GENUS (2 pts), SPECIFIC EPITHET (2 pts), and COMMON NAME (6 pts). One point will be deducted for incorrect spelling of each of the FAMILY, GENUS, or SPECIFIC EPITHET. Full credit will be given for the common name as long as it is clear to the instructor that the student knows the identity of the species (at my or the TA's discretion). A full common name of a tree in the correct genus but for the incorrect species will earn half credit (3 pts, i.e. red maple instead of Florida maple). No credit will be given for excessively generic answers (e.g. only writing 'oak'). The best common name to use to avoid confusion is always the name on the master species list

that is available on the course website. The lab big quiz will be the same as the regular quizzes except that approximately 25 specimens will be given rather than the usual 10. No new species will be taught on that day.

The number of quiz specimens may vary from week to week and from lab to lab. All specimens are equal in point value, thus each student's grade for the lab will be determined as the number of points earned divided by the number of points possible for that student. For example, Jimmie Q. Student was quizzed on 100 specimens over the semester and earned 960 points total. Jimmie's final grade for the lab quizzes was thus $[960 \text{ points earned} / (12 \text{ points per specimen} * 100 \text{ specimens})] = 80\%$. Grades will be available on the course website throughout the semester so students can monitor their progress.

Grading Policy

Item	Percentage	Percent Grade	Letter Grade
Midterm 1	10%	>89.44%	A
Midterm 2	10%	79.45 – 89.44%	B
Final Exam	15%	69.45 – 79.44%	C
Presentation	15%	59.45 – 69.44%	D
Lab Quizzes	50%	<59.45%	F
COURSE GRADE	100%		

Final course grades or individual assignment grades may be curved if deemed appropriate by the instructor. Applying a curve will not result in the lowering of any student's grade. Additionally, bonus opportunities are offered to the entire class and will be evaluated for credit at the discretion of the instructor. A list of bonus opportunities is available on the course website. It is strongly recommended that all students complete as many bonus opportunities as possible to improve their tree identification skills.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Class session attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken within the first 5 minutes of all classroom and lab sessions. You are responsible for learning new species you miss in lab due to an excused absence. There are videos teaching most of our lab species available on the course website you can use, along with photos for all species. **PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND ALL LABS.** We will leave for lab on time, whether you are there or not.

It is university policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies, and student participation in university-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing documentation satisfactory to the instructor for each class missed *PRIOR* to the absence. If the absence is excused and you have discussed it with me prior to the lab, your grade will be recorded as a 0/0 (does not affect your lab grade). If the absence is unexcused or you do not notify me prior to lab, your grade will be recorded as a 0/120.

Lab Safety, Conduct, and Academic Integrity Policy

Hardhats will be worn at all times that anyone is underneath tree-cover (even if we are on campus). If you forget your hardhat, go check one out from the equipment room (it's free). Appropriate clothing, including pants and boots, is required for the labs. If you come to lab in shorts, you can check out a pair of waders from the equipment room (uncomfortable, but better than a 0/120 on a lab quiz). If you are inappropriately dressed you will not be allowed to attend lab and the lab will be treated as an unexcused absence (see attendance policy above). It is at the discretion of the instructor or teaching assistant what appropriate dress for the field is. Please do not wear sandals, tennis-shoes, sneakers, crocs, flip-flops, slippers, etc. You may also require a jacket or rain gear in the winter and drinking water in fall, as appropriate. If you have a metal clipboard, bring gloves if it is cold out. Your lab will meet every week as scheduled. If we are scheduled to go to the field, then we will go, regardless of weather conditions. Come to lab dressed appropriately. Some labs may require crossing creeks or wading in up to chest-deep water, with a greater chance we will be wading during the spring rather than fall semester. These labs are noted on the schedule below.

Behavior during lab judged to be detrimental to learning by myself or the TA will not be tolerated, and may result in failure of that week's quiz, dismissal from the course, etc. No tobacco products may be used in lab, including vaping.

When you are taking quizzes, you are not allowed to look at a master list of species, other lists of species, notes or fact sheets. This will be enforced as an attempt to cheat. Looking at another student's quiz sheet or allowing a student to look at your quiz sheet will also be enforced as an attempt to cheat. Cheating will result in a grade of zero on the quiz for all parties involved **AND AN ADDITIONAL REDUCTION IN YOUR COURSE GRADE BY ONE FULL LETTER GRADE**. A second instance of cheating by a student will result in a grade of F for the entire course.

Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Policy (10.4)

[The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities. Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements. Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam. Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Course Grades Policy (5.5)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please read the complete policy at <https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/5.5.pdf>

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy (6.1)

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

DENDROLOGY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE***				
WEEK	DATE	DAY	LECTURE	LAB
1	29-Aug	Tue	1 Intro to Dendrology	Introduction to Lab (No Quiz, Inside)
	31-Aug	Thur	2 Online Dendro Resources*	
2	5-Sep	Tue	3 Anatomy / Morphology I **	Lab 1: On Campus (No Quiz, Outside) Intro to Range of Woody Species
	7-Sep	Thur	4 Anatomy / Morphology II	
3	12-Sep	Tue	5 Taxonomy	Lab 2: On Campus (Quiz #1) Invasive Species, Some Natives
	14-Sep	Thur	6 Online Keys 1*	
4	19-Sep	Tue	7 Keying Unknowns 1**	Lab 3: On Campus (Quiz #2) Mostly Common Native Species
	21-Sep	Thur	8 Keying Unknowns 2**	
5	26-Sep	Tue	MIDTERM EXAM 1	Lab 4: Lake Nacogdoches (Quiz #3) Common Natives
	28-Sep	Thur	9 Creating Keys	
6	3-Oct	Tue	10 Cover Types	Lab 5: Gassaway Road (Quiz #4) Xeric Site Species
	5-Oct	Thur	11 Trees of Australia	
7	10-Oct	Tue	12 Trees of South America	Lab 6: Experimental Forest (Quiz #5) Bottomland and Mesic Species†
	12-Oct	Thur	13 Trees of Africa	
8	17-Oct	Tue	14 Trees of Europe	Lab 7: Maroney Park (Quiz #6) Mostly Vines
	19-Oct	Thur	15 Trees of Asia	
9	24-Oct	Tue	MIDTERM EXAM 2	NO LABS, SAF CONVENTION
	26-Oct	Thur	NO CLASS, SAF CONV.	
10	31-Oct	Tue	Presentation Day 1	Lab 8: Tram Road (Quiz #7) Slough and Hydric Species†
	2-Nov	Thur	Presentation Day 2	
11	7-Nov	Tue	Presentation Day 3	Lab 9: Tonkowa (Quiz #8) Bay-Gall Species†
	9-Nov	Thur	Presentation Day 4	
12	14-Nov	Tue	Presentation Day 5	Lab 10: PNPC On Campus (Quiz #9) Less Common Natives
	16-Nov	Thur	Presentation Day 6	
13	21-Nov	Tue	NO CLASS OR LABS, THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	23-Nov	Thur		
14	28-Nov	Tue	Presentation Day 7	Lab 11: On Campus (Quiz #10) Mostly Introduced Ornamentals
	30-Nov	Thur	Presentation Day 8	
15	5-Dec	Tue	Presentation Day 9	LAB BIG QUIZ (25 Quiz Trees) No new species taught
	7-Dec	Thur	Presentation Day 10 / Awards	
16	12-Dec	Tue	FINAL EXAM 10:30 – 12:30	<i>study</i>

*Bring a laptop or tablet, if possible, these days. **Bring textbooks to class these days.

***This schedule (including lab locations) is subject to change without notice. However, I will notify you in class and by email as soon as possible of any changes to 1) exam dates, 2) presentation dates, or 3) assignment due dates.

†Lab 6 may involve wading in shin-deep water. Lab 8 may involve wading in up to neck-deep water. Lab 9 will involve crossing several small knee-deep creeks and walking in a muddy bog. Please come prepared.

Why do trees hate riddles What is a tree’s least favorite month? How many acorns grow on a tree?
It’s too easy to get stumped. *Sep-timber* *All of them.*

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students' overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office
Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
mdos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub "The Hub"
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include: Health Services, Counseling Services, Student Outreach and Support, Food Pantry, Wellness Coaching, Alcohol and Other Drug Education

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741