**GEOG 342L**

**Forests and People**

**Spring 2020**

**Instructors:** Dr. Dominique Cagalanan Dr. Clayton Whitesides

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**Office Hours:** MWF 10am-12noon T 12:15-1:15pm, Th 12:15-3:15pm

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**Course description**

GEOG 342L Forests and People Lab. (1 credit) This optional lab course provides a survey of the mixed methods used by geographers in the study of the relationship between forests and people. It includes on- and/or off-campus field experiences, which may include biophysical forest assessments, social research, and community organizing and outreach activities. This course must be taken concurrently with GEOG 342Q\* Forests and People. Instructor permission required. F, S, Su

**Course Objectives**

1. Explore methods of data collection and analysis of forest stands.
2. Explore social research methods.
3. Explore specific research questions and develop appropriate research methods.
4. Highlight the strengths of mixed methods research for the study of the relationship between forests and people.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use a range of data collection and forest mensuration techniques.
2. Use a range of social research methods.
3. Identify appropriate research methods for specific research questions.
4. Develop mixed methods research projects for the study of the relationship between forests and people.

**Readings and Course Materials**

Readings will be available through the Kimbel Library, online, or on Moodle.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Attendance and participation 25%

Exercises 50%

Research proposal 25%

**Grade breakdown**

A 90-100; B+ 87-89.9; B 80-86.9; C+ 77-79.9; C 70-76.9; D+ 67-69.9; D 60-66.9; F <60

***\**** The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the grading scheme, the type and number of assignments, the schedule and due dates, and the overall course plan as necessary.

***Attendance and participation:*** You will be expected to attend every session and participate in every activity. If you must miss a session, please inform the instructor in advance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every session. If you arrive late and the instructor has already taken attendance, you will be recorded as absent. It is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences. The attendance policy (below) will be strictly enforced.Participation is an important part of your and your fellow classmates’ learning in this course. You will be expected to contribute to discussions and exercises in a respectful manner. You will be expected to complete all in-class activities/assignments. If you miss an in-class assignment that is collected, you will not be allowed to make it up. Ultimately, poor attendance and/or a lack of participation will negatively impact your grade.

***Exercises:*** You will be expected to complete all exercises in this course. Exercises will include a range of hands-on forest mensuration and social research methods. You should be prepared to go outside in a range of weather conditions.

***Research proposal:*** You will write a research proposal on a complex research question regarding the relationship between forests and people. Your proposal should be to conduct a hypothetical study anywhere in the world. Your proposal should include: [1] an introduction that summarizes the background for your proposed research project (you will likely need to do some literature research for this); [2] clear research question(s) and explanation of any underlying assumptions or hypotheses that you are making; [3] a detailed explanation of your research methods and how the research methods will help answer your research question(s); and [4] how you will analyze the data that you collect in order to illustrate your findings. Any references you use should be properly cited in-text and included in a reference list. The text of your proposal (sections 1-4 outlined above) should be 5-6 pages (size 12 Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides), and you should include any data collection forms that you create as additional appendices. Appendices should be referred to accordingly in your methods section.

**Course Policies**

***Attendance:*** Attendance will be taken at each class session. The CCU *University Catalog* states, with respect to attendance, that “An instructor is permitted to impose a penalty, including assigning the grade of F, for unexcused absences in excess of 25% of the regularly scheduled class meetings.” Attendance will be taken, and absences in excess of 25% of our class meetings will result in a failing grade, no matter what your actual performance in the course happens to be. The *Catalog* also states that “Absences will be excused for documented cases of:

1. Incapacitating illness or condition – limited to the number of absences that a faculty member determines to be a balance between accommodating the illness/condition and ensuring sufficient participation in class activities.
2. Accommodation for a disability, working in conjunction with Accessibility and Disability Services.
3. Official representation of the University (excuses for official representation of the University should be obtained from the official supervising the activity).
4. Death of a close relative.
5. Religious holidays.
6. Active military duty or assignment.
7. Official University closings.
8. Compliance with a subpoena.”

***Late assignments:*** Assignments are due as announced. Any assignments handed in late will have points deducted. In the case of a-h above, assignments may be handed in up to one week late. If you miss an assignment for any reason other than a-h above, it is up to the instructor’s discretion if you will be allowed to make it up.

***Cell phones:*** Cell phones are not allowed. If your cell phone use is disruptive, I will ask you to step out of the room until you are able to put your phone away. If you are in the midst of an emergency and are expecting to need to check your cell phone during class, please let me know before class starts.

***Academic misconduct:*** Academic misconduct will not be tolerated, and if you are caught committing an academic infraction, your action will be reported to the University, and it may result in failure for the course. The *Academic Integrity Code* (URL: <https://www.coastal.edu/academicintegrity/code/>) gives examples of plagiarism, cheating, attempted cheating and all other forms of academic dishonesty as:

a. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following:

i. borrowing words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment without proper acknowledgement from a source (for example, a book, article, electronic document, or another student’s paper);

ii. submitting another person’s work in place of his/her own;

iii. allowing someone else to revise, correct or edit an assignment without explicit permission of the instructor;

iv. submitting work without proper acknowledgement from commercial firms, websites, fraternity or sorority files, or any other outside sources, whether purchased or not;

v. allowing another person to substitute any part of a course for them, including quizzes, tests, and final examinations;

vi. submitting any written assignments done with the assistance of another without the explicit permission of the instructor;

vii. submitting work that was originally prepared for another class without the explicit permission of the instructor;

viii. knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in plagiarism.

b. Examples of cheating include but are not limited to the following:

i. using or intending to use unauthorized information, materials or assistance of any kind of an assignment, quiz, test or final examination;

ii. knowingly aiding or attempting to aid another student who is engaged in cheating.

See the *Code of Student Conduct* for more details, as well as other cases of academic misconduct. The simplest rule of thumb here is: **do your own work, and give properly formatted credit for ideas that aren’t your own**.

***Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. As members of this community, we are accountable for our actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.***

***Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349-2503 or***[***https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/***](https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/)***).***

**Course Schedule\***

\*Subject to change. Additional readings/assignments may be given throughout the semester.

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| MODULE | TOPIC | ACTIVITIES |
| 1: Forest Basics | Exploring the basics of forests and reforestation | Overview of forests and reforestation |
| Forest stand characteristics |
| 2: The field site | Site development and monitoring | Reforestation site establishment |
| Collection of baseline site measurements, tree and seedling measurements, biodiversity assessment, etc. |
| 3: Social research | Exploring the social context | Social surveys |
| Interviews |
| 4: Participatory action research | Experiencing local challenges in context | Participation in daily activities of land users |
| 5: Proposal development | Mixed-methods research for complex geography questions | Development of a research proposal |