FW3150  Timber Harvesting, 2 Credits  Course Outline

Instructor:  James M. Schmierer, Jr., M.S., School Forester and Lecturer
Office:  130 U.J. Noblet Building, Forest Resources & Environmental Science (SFRES)
Phone:  906.487.2963 office (MTU)  906.524.6181 office (FFC)  906.281.3619 cell (emergencies)  906.487.9336 home (before 10 pm)
Email:  jmschmie@mtu.edu

Office Hours/Contact with Instructor:  by arrangement; I try to accommodate all reasonable requests.  If necessary, I will schedule evening meetings with individual students.


Handouts:  Numerous handouts and reference materials will be distributed in class.  It is your responsibility to read and review this information and store it for future use.  Where appropriate, electronic versions will be made available to you, and complete copies of all course materials will be placed in the FW3150 IFP Reserve.

Meeting Time/Place:  Meeting time variable (see enclosed Tentative Schedule).  Meeting place will be at the Ford Center, Alberta, MI for the first 13 weeks of the semester, usually in the Rogge Conference Room or Classroom 1 (you will be notified otherwise if necessary).  Meeting times and places following the conclusion of the field exercises at Alberta are TBA.

Course Objectives:  This course is designed to provide you with background and basic information regarding the removal of timber from the forest and the associated ecological, aesthetic, and financial impacts.  This course will improve your forestry knowledge base and skill set, and will provide you with useful tools and techniques to use in the field and in the office.

Student Outcomes:  You will have numerous learning opportunities throughout the semester, including lectures, exercises, field trips, and field assignments designed to help build the following skills:

1. use of appropriate terminology associated with timber harvesting;
2. a working knowledge of the site impacts and ecological influences of various harvesting systems and how to minimize or ameliorate them;
3. assessment of management goals, wildlife and biodiversity, economic factors, and silvicultural prescriptions to design an appropriate timber harvesting plan;
4. use and preparation of timber appraisals, timber sale contracts, assessment of logging costs, and timber trespass quantification techniques;
5. the ability to communicate your findings in coherent, logical reports.

Grading:  
- Quizzes— 25%  90% +  A
- Exams— 25%  87-89%  AB
- Assignments— 25%  80-86%  B
- Project— 25%  77-79%  BC
- Total  100%  70-76%  C
- 67-69%  CD
- 60-66%  D
- 59% —  F

Schmierer, J. 2009.  Michigan Technological University  School of Forest Resources & Environmental Science
Course Policies: Full attendance for all scheduled class meetings is expected. In the unlikely event you must miss classes or labs, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor and TA’s and to make the appropriate arrangements for make-up assignments or modified due dates.

Assignments, homework, tests, and quizzes are individual assignments unless explicit instructions are given to work in a group. Group work is expected to be a team effort with full collaboration to complete field data collection, measurements, summaries, and reports. For larger assignments, you will be given the opportunity to evaluate your group members.

Cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, PDAs, or any other electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom. Please make sure to bring a calculator with you to class. Calculators on other devices are strictly prohibited. Information exchanges on these devices during class are also prohibited and violate the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech.

It is expected that classmates, instructors, TA’s, and staff will be treated with respect during all interactions in the classroom and in the field. All forested environments will be treated with respect as well. Littering and/or destruction of habitat or forest features is strictly prohibited.

IFP Policies: Additional details regarding behavior and code of conduct are reviewed at the start of camp.

University Policies: Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance the University's policies. If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aaq/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement:
Tentative Topics and Assignments*

_Schmierer, J._ 2009.  
*Topics, schedule, and grading procedures are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.*

**Ford Center & Research Forest, Alberta:**

Week 1: Orientation and Introduction to Michigan Forests

Week 2: Overview of Timber Harvesting in the Lake States, History of Logging in the Region

Week 3: Harvesting Systems, Operations Planning, Logging Job Field Tour

Week 4: Tree Soundness and Tree Grading, Log Scaling and Grading

Week 5: Forest Roads and Best Management Practices for Water Quality

Week 6: Aesthetic and Ecological Impacts of Timber Harvesting, Riparian and Wildlife Impacts

Week 7: Felling Trees, Bucking Logs for Optimal Value Recovery, Logging Safety

Week 8: Timber Appraisal and Stumpage Valuation, Timber Trespass

Week 9: INTEGRATED PROJECT—Part 1 (Planning, Fieldwork, Data Collection & Summarization)

Week 10: Timber Sale Preparation and Administration, Timber Sale Field Tour

Week 11: Timber Sale Contracts

Week 12: INTEGRATED PROJECT—Part 2 (Management Recommendations, Harvesting Plan)

Week 13: Post-Harvest Assessment, Logging and Equipment Costs

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Week 14: FINAL PRESENTATIONS, Review, and FINAL EXAM