
Course Name

Code No.

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is a project oriented course in which teams of 2 or 3 students will select a natural area and then inventory, appraise and prepare a land use plan for that area following the format of a Managed Forest Plan as required for the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. Study locations will be selected by the student groups primarily from a list prepared by the school, though additional study areas of personal interest may be acceptable upon prior approval by the instructor. Emphasis will be placed on integrated resource use in the management plan. An oral presentation and written Managed Forest Plan are required for evaluation.

II. **LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. **Carry out an inventory of the biotic and abiotic resources in a study area several hectares in area.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Select a study area of interest
- Obtain aerial photographs, contour maps, stand maps and/or other pertinent background information related to the area
- Locate the study area on the ground and walk around it, attempting to establish boundaries by identifying survey stakes, fence rows etc.
- Subdivide the study area into **compartments** which are uniform in species composition, arrangement, condition and age
- Using acceptable survey methods and following the format of the current Guide to The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan or other instructor approved inventory methods , inventory each compartment in terms of area, site characteristics, history, vegetation and wildlife habitat
- Present the results of this inventory in a mid-term interview and in the management plan.

(This outcome will constitute 20% of the final grade)

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2. **Prepare a written Managed Forest Plan to a standard acceptable for approval under the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- List the name(s) of the registered property owner
- List the property location and the 19 digit assessment roll number(s) for the area
- Describe the property's management history
- Prepare a **property location map** and a **detailed administrative map** of the property
- Describe and prioritize the objectives for management of the entire area and explain the strategy for plan implementation
- **For each compartment**, summarize inventory data as required in Section 7 of the Guide to the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program
- **For each compartment**, complete a description of long-term objectives and short term activities proposed
- Make a summary table of the activities you propose in the next 5 year period as described in the MFTIP guide; include cost estimates for the work in the comments column of the table.
- Describe in detail (minimum of 2 pages per activity) the work proposed in the next five years

(This outcome will constitute 50% of the final grade)

3. **Present your plan orally to the rest of the class and/or outside guests.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Present the final management plan to an audience in a professional manner using appropriate aids
- Introduce the area; its location, owners, management history and management objectives for the whole property
- Describe the compartments into which the study area has been subdivided
- Provide detail concerning the long-term objectives and short-term activities planned for each compartment (this should be the most detailed part of your presentation)

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- Assemble a promotional display including slides, photographs and/or other audiovisual materials that will effectively describe the area and the proposed developments

(This outcome will constitute 30% of the final grade)

III. TOPICS:

1. Introduction to the course.
2. Explanation of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program and a description of the requirements of a Managed Forest Plan.
3. Legal descriptions of properties and assessment roll numbers including the role of the Regional Assessment offices.
4. Natural resource inventory methods and procedures
5. Preparing the written report and class presentation
6. Plan presentations including peer assessment.

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

1. A Guide to The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program; January 2000 Revision.
2. Map and photo set for your study area (available from the natural resource technologists' office)
3. Field survey equipment (available from the technologists' office).

Although no one text is required, a list of several suggested references will be handed out in class. Searching the Internet for current material on related topics is recommended.

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Code No.**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

- Weekly progress reports/attendance (see details below) 10%
- Progress interviews (2) 10%
- Written report 50%
- Oral presentation 30%

Attendance Policy: After week 2, there will be no scheduled classes until student presentations commence in week 11. Students will be expected to be working on their projects at the college or on-site during scheduled class time. Each week, students will sign in with the instructor and indicate where they will be located and what they will be doing with regards to their project.

Attendance is required at all scheduled classes and student presentations. A course schedule will be handed out in the first class to indicate when compulsory classes will take place. A penalty of 5% will be imposed for each missed compulsory session.

Progress Interviews: Two progress interviews will be scheduled; in week 6 and week 9. By week 6 you should have a fairly clear idea of what is on your study site (inventory) and some idea about what can be done with the resources present. For these interviews please bring a one to two page summary that includes the following:

- A project title for your plan
- Rough maps that show; access to your area, area boundaries, compartments and compartment boundaries
- Inventory data including field notes and a schedule to complete the property inventory
- A project outline including goals and objectives
 - Note:** consider alternate plans for what can be done with each area
- Any other information that will show your progress and effort (e.g. photos, contacts made and information obtained)
- a list of any area-specific questions you have

BE PREPARED. This will be an opportunity to ask the instructor questions and 'bounce' some ideas off the instructor.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

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| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Definition</u> | <u>Grade Point Equivalent</u> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| A+ | 90 - 100% | 4.00 |
| A | 80 - 89% | 3.75 |
| B | 70 - 79% | 3.00 |
| C | 60 - 69% | 2.00 |
| R (Repeat) | 59% or below | 0.00 |
| CR (Credit) | Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded. | |
| S | Satisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas. | |
| U | Unsatisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas. | |
| X | A temporary grade. This is used in limited situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course (see <i>Policies & Procedures Manual – Deferred Grades and Make-up</i>). | |
| NR | Grade not reported to Registrar's office. This is used to facilitate transcript preparation when, for extenuating circumstances, it has been impossible for the faculty member to report grades. | |

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Code No.**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**

In this course, students will be expected to use their knowledge of natural resources, survey procedures and problem solving skills to come up with a comprehensive plan. Students will work on their own to a large degree with the instructor acting as a mentor and facilitator.

Experience has shown that when team partners have different natural resource backgrounds e.g. Fish and Wildlife, Forestry or Outdoor Recreation, plans are more liable to be integrated and consider a range of possible land uses.

The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan format may be modified where necessary, with the instructor's consent so that non-forested areas such as wetlands and other area of recreational or wildlife habitat potential may be included in candidate areas acceptable for plan preparation.

Scholarship: The College presents 2 scholarships of one hundred to three hundred dollars to the teams which receive the highest combined marks for their written plan and oral presentation in this course.

Certification: The Ontario Woodlot Association (OWA), Ontario Forestry Association (OFA) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) jointly administer a program which grants **Managed Forest Plan Approver** certification to applicants who successfully complete a test examining their knowledge of the MFTIP and the preparation of Managed Forest Plans. Managed Forest Plan Approvers are the individuals with authority to approve landowners' forest management plans, prepared to receive a 75% tax reduction on managed forest lands.

A thorough understanding of the learning objectives described in this course outline, the contents of A Guide to The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan and the principles of integrated resource management as taught in NRT 220 (the 2nd year IRM course) should allow a person to successfully complete this test.

The test is held each autumn in MNR district offices and those interested should make inquiries through either the OWA, OFA or MNR.

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1204 or call Extension 493, 717, or 491 so that support services can be arranged for you.

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Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course, as may be decided by the professor. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the instructor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of the following:

VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.