



**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 following the format of a Forest Stewardship 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 approval by the instructor. Emphasis will be placed on integrated resource use in the management plan. An oral report and written Stewardship 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 Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas 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 a management plan

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

2. **Prepare a written Stewardship 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 nineteen 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 Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas
- **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 10 year period as described in the MFTIP guide
- Describe in detail (minimum of a page per activity) the work proposed in the next 10 years

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

3. **Present your plan orally to the class and outside guests**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Present the final stewardship plan to an audience in a professional manner using appropriate audiovisual aids
- Introduce the area; its location, owners, management history and management objectives
- 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)
- Assemble a promotional display including photographs and 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 Stewardship Plan
3. Legal descriptions of properties and assessment roll numbers
4. Natural resource inventory methods and procedures
5. Preparing the written report and oral presentation
6. Plan presentations including peer review

**IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:**

1. A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2006
  - Provided by your instructor
2. Map and photo set for your study area
  - Originals provided by your instructor from which you will immediately make copies for your use
3. Field inventory equipment
  - Available from the technologist's office

Although no text is required, a list of several suggested references will be handed out. Searching the internet for current background material is recommended.

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:**

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

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

<b>Grade</b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>	<b><i>Grade Point Equivalent</i></b>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

## VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

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

**Attendance Policy:** After week 2, there will be no scheduled classes until student presentations begin, usually in week eleven. Students will be expected to be working on their projects at the college or on-site during the scheduled class time. Each week, students will sign a sheet indicating 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 second 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 10.

By week 6 you should have a clear idea of what is on your study site through an inventory and some idea of what might be done with the resources present. For this interview bring a one or two page summary that includes the following:

- A project title for your plan
- Rough maps that show; access to your area, area boundaries and compartments
- Inventory data including field notes and a schedule to complete the inventory
- Any other information that will show your progress and effort to date
- A list of area specific questions for your instructor

By week 10 your presentation should be ready for presentation. At this time bring your written presentation notes for review by your instructor who will check that all sections have been adequately prepared.

**Scholarship:** The college may present 2 scholarships to the teams which receive the highest combined marks for their written plan and oral presentation.

**Note:** The scholarships will only be awarded if marks are above 80%.

**Communication:**

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

**Plagiarism:**

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Code of Conduct*. 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/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. 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.

**Course Outline Amendments:**

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 professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

**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.