



## STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

**Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture**  
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### **FOR 587/687-001: Graduate Seminar, Spring 2016**

#### **Course Details**

**Instructor:** Dr. Roger J. Masse

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**Office Hours:** M/W/F 10-noon; T/R 9-11; others by appointment

**Seminar\*:** Monday 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Forestry 117

\*Day/time/location subject to change depending on availability of presenters and room.

#### **Open Door Policy**

Generally, I maintain an open door policy so please feel free to stop by whenever you'd like...if my door is open and no one else is in my office then you are welcome to stop in...if my door is open and I'm meeting with someone else then please wait for that person to leave (i.e., do not interrupt)...if my door is closed than I'm either away from my office or working inside and cannot be disturbed. If you are coming to campus specifically to see me it would be best to make an appointment by e-mail. I check e-mail frequently and will typically reply within 24 hours if not sooner.

#### **I. Course Description**

**FOR 587/687. Graduate Seminar** – Public speaking is an important skill to develop during your graduate studies because oral (and written!) communication is necessary for contemporary natural resources managers to be successful. This course is intended to: 1) provide an opportunity for graduate students to practice their public speaking skills, and 2) provide an opportunity for graduate students to learn about research projects being conducted by their peers and faculty/staff of Stephen F. Austin State University and other institutions. In this one (1) semester credit hour course, students will give and attend 20-minute presentations related to scientific work in wildlife, forestry, spatial science, and other related fields. Seminars may include research proposals or discussions of results from preliminary or completed data analyses. Students are encouraged to coordinate with their major professors regarding seminar content and organization as they develop their presentations.

#### **II. Program Learning Outcomes**

Graduate Seminar is a graduate-level course for students in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. This course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLO's):

1. Demonstrate proficiency in research design relative to the field of study.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the process of reviewing scientific literature pertinent to the field of study.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in basic statistical analysis relative to the field of study.
4. Demonstrate sufficient preparation in the field of study to pursue a professional career.
5. Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills.

Program Learning Outcomes: Proficiency Levels					
Course	PLO 1 Research Design	PLO 2 Reviewing Scientific Literature	PLO 3 Basic Statistical Analysis	PLO 4 Preparation in Field of Study	PLO 5 Oral & Written Communication Skills
FOR 587/687	A/I	A	A/I	A	A

A – Advanced – FOR 587/687 supports PLO's by providing students with high-level topic-specific information, activities, or opportunities that enable students to apply critical thinking skills.

I – Intermediate – FOR 587/687 supports PLO's by providing students with topic-specific information, concepts, applications, or activities that increase the students' skills relative to the expected outcomes.

### III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of research context and design relative to the field of study (PLO's 1, 2, 4).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of proposed or completed basic statistical analyses relative to the field of study (PLO's 3, 4).
3. Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills (PLO's 4, 5).

### IV. Course Objectives

FOR 587/687 is a seminar course. During scheduled seminars (20-minutes plus 5-minutes for questions and answers), graduate students, staff, or faculty will highlight current research projects. Graduate students presenting during the semester will be provided with constructive criticisms of their presentations and speaking skills in order to highlight relevant strengths and weaknesses. **Attendance during all scheduled seminars is mandatory unless students have a course conflict or University-approved excused absence.**

### V. Texts and Materials

None required, but relevant handouts will be provided during the first scheduled meeting.

### VI. Course Requirements and Grading

Each student is required to give a 20-minute oral presentation followed by 5-minutes of questions and answers. In addition, each presenting student is required to submit a presentation title and short (ca. 250 word) abstract via e-mail ([masserj@sfasu.edu](mailto:masserj@sfasu.edu)) by the Monday before their scheduled presentation. See tentative schedule below. Titles and abstracts will be circulated around the College in order to provide notice of scheduled seminars. Students are also required to submit relevant background information via e-mail in order to facilitate pre-seminar introductions. Specific information will be requested by the instructor.

Students will earn a grade of Pass (P) or Fail (F) for this course. A passing grade is earned by submitting the required pre-seminar information and completing the required oral presentation. Any unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

**VII. Tentative Schedule (Monday's 4-5 p.m.)**

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Presenters</u>
25 January	25 Jan. 2016 (Monday) – No presentations; Introduction to Graduate Seminar <b>28 Jan. 2016 (Thursday; 4-5 p.m.) – Dr. Rose Wang, Texas A &amp; M University</b>
1 February	No presentations
8 February	<b>Luke Oliver</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Cassidy Comer</b> , SFASU Ph.D. Student
15 February	<b>Libby Messick</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Bryce Gerlach</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
22 February	<b>Ryan Jacques</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Laura Duffie</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
29 February	<b>Dr. Tanh Nguyen</b> , SFASU Postdoctoral Research Associate
7 March	<b>Dr. Yuhui Weng</b> , SFASU Assistant Professor of Forestry
14 March	No presentations; Spring Break
21 March	<b>Hannah Angel</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Tamara Bennett</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
28 March	<b>Amy Urbanovsky</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Amy Camp</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
4 April	<b>Brian Blades</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Duncan Hibler</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
11 April	<b>Amy Brennan</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Caitlin Glymph</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
18 April	<b>Joshua Harris</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Melissa Griffith</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
25 April	<b>Ray Montez</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Sam Sewell</b> , SFASU M.S. Student
2 May	<b>Courtney Williams</b> , SFASU M.S. Student <b>Jamie Hooker</b> , SFASU M.S. Student

## **VIII. Other Policies**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is important to successfully achieve the student learning outcomes described above. Attendance will generally be taken within the first 5 minutes of class. It is University policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons including 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 in order for absences to be excused.

### **Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all University faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

### **Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):**

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.

### **Students with Disabilities**

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/>.

### **Responsible Use of Technology**

It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

### **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 (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). 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. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.