

## WDSC 100 Syllabus

### Course Information

"There is no question that without its forests, the United States of America would have a decidedly different history, and would be a decidedly different place than it is today." — Douglas W. MacCleery (*American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery*)

### Course Description

WDSC 100 examines human use of forest resources in America from pre-Colombian times to the present. Exploration of factors that impact the use of wood products.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credit Hours:** 3 hr. lecture, 3 hr. credit

General Education Curriculum (G E C)

Wood Science 100 counts under Objective 2 (Basic Mathematical Skills and Scientific Inquiry) and Objective 3 (The Past and Its Traditions).

**Web Site for WDSC 100:** [http://jim\\_armstrong.forestry.wvu.edu/wdsc100](http://jim_armstrong.forestry.wvu.edu/wdsc100)

### Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Jim Armstrong

E-mail: [jim.armstrong@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:jim.armstrong@mail.wvu.edu)

### Response Time

Within eCampus, I will do my best to respond to any mail or discussions directed to me within 24 hours. If for some reason eCampus is inaccessible, send your question or concern to me via WVU email.

All grades will be posted within, and not later than, 2 weeks after the assessment's due date.

I will be traveling in Europe between October 8 and 22. During that time, I will not have Internet access. Your patience during that time frame will be greatly appreciated.

### Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment and will be conducted online. We may use eCampus Chat tool or a simple phone call — whatever works best. To schedule an appointment, use the eCampus Mail tool to send me a message.

For questions concerning the readings or about any of the content in this course, please send them via eCampus email. To my way of thinking, there are no dumb questions.

## Course Description

Examines human use of forest resources in America from pre-Colombian times to the present. Exploration of factors that impact the use of wood products.

## Course Objectives

The course is intended to develop understanding about the use of forest resources and the factors affecting decisions impacting that use. An historical approach will be employed in order to illustrate how various scientific, technological, and supply issues affect resource use.

## eCampus

Each chapter's overview and learning objectives are displayed in the Course Content on eCampus.

Assignments and Exams will be administered via eCampus, and you will submit your assignments there as well.

Practice quizzes are made available in the last chapter of each unit (corresponding to the Sections in your text).

Discussion groups and review sessions will also be conducted via eCampus.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain the critically important role forests and forest products played in the history and development of the nation. *(G E C Objective 3)*
2. Describe of the breadth of the history of the use and abuse of forest resources in the U.S. from pre-Columbian to modern times. They will also prove critical thinking skills by analyzing how policymakers and ordinary citizens have distinguished between the two during different eras in American history. *(G E C Objectives 2 and 3)*
3. Assess how societal attitudes toward forest resources have changed over time and how human attitudes and values have led to development of the American conservation movement; growth of the conservation professions (forestry, wildlife management, and wood science); and implementation of government policy to both protect forests and promote use of forest products. *(G E C Objective 3)*
4. Demonstrate reasonable knowledge of how anatomical, chemical, physical, and mechanical properties of various woods native to North America have influenced the wide variety of products that have come from wood. *(G E C Objective 2)*

5. Compare how demand and use of wood-based products has changed over time from a regional to a global perspective and the impact of that use on society and the environment. *(G E C Objective 3)*
6. Summarize the principal applications of wood and wood-based materials including the important positive and negative attributes of the use of those products and those of alternative materials. *(G E C Objective 2)*
7. Recognize the major policy, regulation, environmental and other societal issues that impact the manufacturing and use of wood-based products. *(G E C Objective 3)*
8. Distinguish sound from unsound decisions concerning their personal use of resources and land based upon critical environmental, economic, and societal criteria. *(G E C Objective 2)*

## 9. Grading

Activity/Exam	Schedule	Points
Discussions	20 points for each or 5 required discussions	100
Assignments (10)	Posted within even numbered learning modules	150
Exam 1	Week 4	150
Exam 2	Week 8	150
Exam 3	Week 12	150
Exam 4	Finals Week	300
Total		1000

## 10. Grading Policy

11. Grading in Wood Science 100 will be in accordance with the procedures outlined in the [2012-2013 University Catalog](#). Final grades will be assigned based upon the student's average grade for the course. A 100-point grading scale will be employed (A: 900-1000; B: 800-899; C: 700-799; D: 600-699; F: 0- 599) to determine the final grade.
12. A student believing that a mistake has been made in grading has 3 days following return of the examination or assignment to notify me. If I agree that an error has been made, the grade will be corrected; if not I will explain the reasons to the student. Grades are non-negotiable except in cases of instructor error.

## Exams

All exams will be delivered via eCampus. You will find links to the exams under the Assessments tool as well as within their respective Learning Modules. Exam questions will be based upon material covered in lectures and the text.

## ***Practice Quizzes***

Practice quizzes will be available at the end of each Unit. (See schedule for unit divisions).

## ***Assignments***

Homework assignments appear at the end of each even-numbered Learning Module on eCampus. You are expected to submit 6 of the 12 assignments, at your discretion, no later than one week after the Learning Modules covered by that assignment are completed in class. Each assignment is worth 25 points and will be graded using the rubric.

## ***Required Discussions***

There will be five required discussions during the semester, worth a maximum of 20 points each. Participation in a graded Introductory Discussion is required, but not graded, before you sign up for a discussion group. All graded discussions (except the Introductory Discussion) will be within small groups (no more than 8 persons per group). You will find the group sign-up link on the Home page of this eCampus course. After you have introduced yourself and replied to several of your classmates, select the group you want to be in by using the Group Sign-up button on the Home page."

## **Lecture Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading /Assignment</b>
<b>1</b>	Forests of the United States Formation of America's Ancient Forests	Foreword Chapter 1 Chapter 2 <b>Assn Ch1-2</b>
<b>2</b>	Civilizations 1491	Chapter 3 Chapter 4 <b>Assn Ch3-4</b>
<b>3</b>	The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492 Shaping the American Landscape	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 <b>Assn Ch5-6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Exam 1 (Chapters 1-6)</i></b> Freedom and Liberty: The Four Migrations from Britain	Chapter 7
<b>5</b>	Wooden Ships American Building Construction: 1607 – ca. 1833	Chapter 8 <b>Assn Ch7-8</b> Chapter 9
<b>6</b>	Videos: The Carpenters' Craft Wood Use in Everyday Life: A Walk through Williamsburg	Chapter 10 <b>Assn Ch9-10</b>
<b>7</b>	Early Commercial Uses of the Forest The Innovation of Light Frame Construction	Chapter 11 Chapter 12 <b>Assn Ch11-12</b>

8	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 7-12)</b> Lessons from Gettysburg and Petersburg	Chapter 13
9	American Land Policy: 1787 – 1891 Railroads	Chapter 14 <b>Assn Ch13-14</b> Chapter 15
10	Lumbering and the Land: 1869 – 1929 "From Stump to Ship" Film Festival	Chapter 16 Assn Ch15-16
11	The American Conservation Movement The Birth of Forestry in America	Chapter 17 Chapter 18 <b>Assn Ch17-18</b>
12	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 13-18)</b> The Oak-Chestnut Forest	Chapter 19
13	Conflict Over Forests Fire	Chapter 20 <b>Assn Ch19-20</b> Chapter 21
14	The Global Wood Products Market "Trees Are the Answer" and "Solving the Wildfire Crisis"	Chapter 22 <b>Assn Ch21-22</b>
15	The Ideal Green Material Residential Construction and Materials Use in the 21st Century	Chapter 23 Chapter 24 <b>Assn Ch23-24</b>
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Exam 4 (Chapters 1-24)</b>	

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Instructor: Dr. Jim Armstrong  
Office: 206-E Percival Hall  
Phone: 304-293-7603  
E-mail: jim.armstrong@mail.wvu.edu

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