

Example Syllabus and Schedule

FOR 426 Global Fire Ecology and Management, 3 cr.

Course Overview: This online class is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of fire ecology and implications for ecologically-based fire management in a variety of wildland ecosystems. You will learn about the ecological effects of fire on plants, animals, soil, water and air. Our discussions about fire management will address current issues, including fire management in the wildland/urban interface, climate change, and effects of fires on watersheds, streams and riparian areas. We'll also read current scientific literature to gain familiarity with fire ecology research. We will emphasize fire as an ecological process in wildland ecosystems, how to characterize and predict fire effects over time and space, and how to apply this to restoration ecology.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand fire as an ecological and biophysical process.
- Characterize fire over space and time, including the fire regimes and the factors affecting them.
- Apply fire ecology knowledge to ecological restoration and fire management issues

Required Books and Articles:

- Fire Ecology of Northwest Forests by James K. Agee. Island Press
ISBN-10: 1559632305 | ISBN-13: 978-1559632300 | Edition: 1
- To access articles please go to the University Library website and search articles at <http://db.lib.uidaho.edu/databases/>. Alternatively, I use google scholar often and I can find most articles you will need here. I know that article searches can be a bit frustrating at times, but it is important to learn how to use these resources and I will not provide the articles in any other way.
- If you do not already have a library card you can [request one online](#). It usually takes 24-48 hours via email to receive your number.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Introduction	25
Citation	20
Comparison Papers (2 total, 100 points)	200
Exams (2 total, 150 points)	300
Briefing paper (110)	110
Reading questions (5 total, 50 pts each)	250
Discussion questions (3 total, 25pts each)	75

Muddy moments (4 total, 5 pts each)	20
Total points	1000
<i>Extra credit</i>	20

- **Assignments turned in late will be marked off 10% of total points available for every day it is late, unless the student has previously arranged with the instructor to turn in the assignment late. A previous arrangement must be made more than 24 hours before the due date unless a medical emergency or unexpected work conflict has occurred. No other excuses will be accepted and due dates will be strictly enforced. Any medical emergencies must be accompanied by a doctors note on official letterhead. **
- Grades will be based on the total number of points received in this class:
- **A = 900-1000**
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F < 600
- You will have two exams. These will focus on concepts and definitions (with examples), as well as on issues and applications in fire ecology and management. Exams will include short essay questions, which will require you to utilize class readings, current fire ecology tools and the internet. All exams will be take home and open book, but you must complete the test independently. I expect you to cite relevant sources when applicable.
- Comparison paper is 3-5 pages comparing and contrasting two topics. You will need to support your statements with relevant literature used in class, as well as relevant papers you research on the topic. You must use a minimum of 10 peer reviewed citations.
- Briefing paper: You will write a short, well-structured 3-5 page briefing paper that quickly and effectively inform decision-makers about an ecologically-based fire management issue (page count does not include figures, tables and literature cited, and I encourage you to include figures and tables).
- You will need to answer questions on the readings throughout the semester. Every week 2-3 questions pertaining to assigned readings should be answered using grammar and format similar to that required in papers for the class. The responses should be prompt but thorough.
- Introduction and Discussions: During the first week of the class please complete an introduction about yourself, including your familiarity with the subject area, your current location, and something interesting about yourself. Three times throughout this course I will provide a discussion question for you to answer. You must also respond to your classmates answers. 20 of the 25 points will be your response to the question while the last 5 points will be awarded for your contribution to other students' discussions, you must respond to two of your classmates for each discussion question.
- Muddy Moments are to encourage you to ask questions. I have provided the space to post your questions so everyone can see and learn from your questions.
- You can receive extra credit by answering the questions posed in the "Muddy Moments". If you accurately and effectively answer a fellow students question you can earn up to 5 points extra credit per answered question. The maximum you can earn is 20 points by answering 4 questions.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: Academic Dishonesty of any form is unacceptable and will be taken seriously by the instructor, the College of Natural Resources, and the University of Idaho. This includes plagiarism, when you copy materials from other sources without citing the source or copy someone else's work,

and cheating, copying material from other students during tests or quizzes. In both cases, you will fail the assignment/exam and the information will be passed on to the Dean of Students. For more information on College and University guidelines see:

- [Policy on Plagiarism](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Accommodation for disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through [Disability Support Services](#) located in the Idaho Commons Building, Rm. 333, 208-885-7200, dss@uidaho.edu.

Example schedule (detailed schedule will be provided to enrolled students, and this may change from one year to the next)

- Lesson 1 – Intro & Fire as a Biophysical Process, Aug 25-31. Includes 2 instructor presentations, readings (book chapter and 2 journal articles), and two assignments (introduction and citations)
- Lesson 2 – Overview of Fire Regimes and Fire History, Sep 1-7. Includes 2 instructor presentations, with readings (2 book chapters and 2 journal articles), and one assignment (reading questions)
- Lesson 3 – Case Study of Pine Forests, Sep 8-21. Includes 2 instructor presentations and a documentary, readings (5 journal articles), and 1 discussion and responses to other fellow students
- Lesson 4 – Case Study of Mixed Conifer Forests, Sep 22-Oct 5. Includes 2 guest presentations, readings (4 journal articles) and one assignment (Reading questions 2)
- Lesson 5 – Case Study of Steppe, Oct 6-12. Includes 2 guest presentations, readings (5 journal articles) and Mid-term Exam
- Lesson 6 – Case Study of the Cold Places, Oct 13-26. Includes 3 guest presentations, readings (5 journal articles) and two assignments (Reading questions 3 and Comparison Paper 1)
- Lesson 7 – Fire Effects, Oct 27-Nov 23. Includes 7 instructor presentations, with readings on native plants (one book chapter and 3 journal articles), invasive plants (1 journal article), animals (1 journal article), water, soils, nutrients: flooding events (2 readings), and air (1 journal article). Also due: Discussion question and responses to fellow students, Reading questions 4, Comparison Paper 2, Reading Question 5).
- Lesson 8 – Fire as a human tool, Dec 1-21. Includes 3 presentations (video and 2 guest presentations), readings about past, present and future (1+ book chapters, 6 journal articles) and assignments (Briefing Paper, Discussion questions and responses to fellow students, and Final Exam).