

FOR 512, WFS 512, AND FWF 612
GRADUATE SEMINAR IN FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
Fall 2016

Instructors: Drs. Matt Gray and David Harper
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Meeting Time & Place: Wed, 12:20 – 1:10 p.m., 160 Plant Biotechnology Building

Course Goal: To provide an opportunity for forestry, wildlife and fisheries graduate students to practice delivering professional presentations and to increase opportunities for graduate students and faculty to interact.

Expected Outcomes: Students will develop skills in constructing and delivering PowerPoint presentations and in answering questions related to their graduate research and natural resource principles, concepts and issues.

Weights of Academic Assessments: *(one credit course)*

- Presentation 85%
- Participation 15% (1.25% per seminar, 31 Aug – 23 Nov)

Your course grade will be determined using the following scale:

Grade	Final Weighted Percent		Grade	Final Weighted Percent
A	90–100%		B	80–86%
B+	87–89%		C+	77–79%

Tentative Schedule:

- 17 Aug = No class
- 24 Aug = No class
- 31 Aug = Introduction
- 7 Sep = Presentation Example: Types I and II
- 14 Sep = Presentation Example: Type III and PowerPoint Tips
- 21 Sep = ***Guest Presenter***
- 28 Sep = Graduate Student Presentations
- 5 Oct = Graduate Student Presentations
- 12 Oct = Graduate Student Presentations
- 19 Oct = Graduate Student Presentations
- 26 Oct = Graduate Student Presentations
- 2 Nov = Graduate Student Presentations
- 9 Nov = Graduate Student Presentations
- 16 Nov = Graduate Student Presentations
- 23 Nov = Graduate Student Presentations

There will be a maximum of 1 faculty or 2 students presenting per seminar (except on 7 Dec if needed).

Enrolled students must sign up for a presentation date by **7 Sept** and provide a draft presentation title by **21 Sept**.

7 Dec = Graduate Student Presentations (12:30 – 2:30 pm) – *only if needed*.

Participation Policy

- (1) Attendance is mandatory for all **enrolled students** every time seminar meets, starting on 31 August. Your final grade will be reduced 1.25% for each unexcused absence. Up to **3 excused absences** will be permitted. In general, excused absences include illness, death in family, attending a professional conference, and occasionally research. Excused absences do not include research that could be planned for a different time than seminar.
- (2) Attendance is mandatory by all **students not enrolled** that are pursuing a graduate degree in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries or Natural Resources during guest and graduate student presentations. A tally of attendance will be distributed to Dr. Belli at the end of the semester.

Presentation Policy

Students are required to present on their sign-up date. Failure to present on this date will result in a 10% reduction in your final grade. Students are permitted to switch presentation dates with others without a penalty; however, Dr. Gray must be notified ≥ 7 days prior to the presentation date.

Presentation Requirements:

- A) First Seminar (Type I):
 - (1) Oral presentation using PowerPoint on your proposed M.S. or Ph.D. research.
 - (2) Required Components: Introduction and Justification for Research, Objectives, and Proposed Methods.
 - (3) Your presentation can include preliminary results but they are not required and will not be graded.

- B) Second Seminar (Types II and III):
 - II. Oral presentation using PowerPoint on results from a side study or a portion of your UT graduate research that will not be presented during your defense. The required components for this presentation are: Introduction and Justification for Research, Objectives, Methods, Results, Discussion of Possible Mechanisms Influencing Results, and the Applied or Theoretical Implications of Results.

OR,
 - III. Oral presentation using PowerPoint on a contemporary natural resource topic (e.g., impacts of climate change on wildlife, environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, limitations of biofuel production, promoting invasive species for economic development, spread of white-nose syndrome in bats, hierarchical modeling). This presentation should be given in lecture (topic-review) format.

Presentations must be 15-20 minutes. Five minutes will be allowed for questions.
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