

**FOR 512, WFS 512, AND FWF 612**  
**GRADUATE SEMINAR IN FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**  
**Spring 2015**

**Instructors:** Drs. Matt Gray and Chris Lituma  
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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% (1.07% per seminar, 14 Jan – 5 May)

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:**

7 Jan = Introduction  
 14 Jan = Presentation Example: Types I and II  
 21 Jan = Presentation Example: Type III and PowerPoint Tips  
 28 Jan = **Bill Stiver** (*National Park Service*) – 156/157 PBB  
 4 Feb = Graduate Student Presentations  
 11 Feb = *Discussions on 4 Feb Presentations*  
 18 Feb = Graduate Student Presentations  
 25 Feb = *Discussions on 18 Feb Presentations*  
 4 Mar = **No Seminar** (TN-TWS Meeting)  
 11 Mar = **Dr. Chris Lituma** (UT)  
 18 Mar = **No Seminar** (Spring Break)  
 25 Mar = Graduate Student Presentations  
 1 Apr = *Discussions on 25 Mar Presentations*  
 9 Apr = Graduate Student Presentations  
 15 Apr = *Discussions on 9 Apr Presentations*

There will be a maximum of 1 guest speaker or 2 students presenting per seminar

Enrolled students must sign up for a presentation date on **14 Jan** and provide a draft presentation title by **28 Jan**.

22 Apr = Graduate Student Presentations

5 May (Tue; 10:15-11:15 pm) = *Discussions on 22 Apr Presentations*

### Participation Policy

- (1) Attendance is mandatory for all **enrolled students** every time seminar meets, starting on 14 January. Your final grade will be reduced 1.07% 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. During seminar discussions (11 and 25 Feb; 1 and 15 Apr; 5 May), half of the attendance points (0.536%) will be for completion of an evaluation sheet for each presenter.
- (2) Attendance is mandatory by all **students not enrolled** that are pursuing a graduate degree in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries or Natural Resources during faculty and graduate student presentations. A tally of attendance will be distributed to the department chair and faculty 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  $\geq 7$  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 thesis 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, hierachial 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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