Course Section: 001  
Meeting Place: 266 Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science  
Meeting Time: Fridays, 10:10 am – 1:10 pm  
Course Credit Hours: 3

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Instructor: Emma Willcox  
Office: 248 Ellington Plant Sciences  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Phone: 865-974-7888  
Email: ewillcox@utk.edu (note two Is in Willcox)

When you have questions, need further instruction, or have a problem, I strongly encourage you to talk with me before or after class or to come and see me in my office. I have an open door policy and am always happy to meet with you at any time. However, I recommend you email or call to check I am in the office before making a special trip onto campus to see me.

In addition, there are numerous other faculty who are willing to meet with you and answer any questions you may have about the natural resource management planning process and your team plan. These faculty members are listed on Blackboard under “Contacts.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course serves as the “capstone” for all forestry, wildlife, and fisheries majors. It is designed to provide you with an integrative problem-solving experience and introduce you to life as a professional. Working in teams, you will utilize the knowledge and skills you have gained during your degree program to create a “real world” natural resource management plan for a client. Your team will work independently throughout the semester to develop a team contract, determine a work agenda, seek out resources, and perform field and office work, operating like a consulting firm. At the conclusion of the semester, you will deliver your management plan to the client, faculty, and your classmates in a formal, professional-caliber written report and oral presentation.

The course is designed to foster the skills you will need to make wise natural resource management decisions in the future, including:

♦ Planning- understanding the natural resource management planning process.
♦ Information- finding, evaluating, and integrating information.
♦ Values- integrating personal and cultural beliefs, values, and ethics in the planning process.
♦ Communication- developing clear and persuasive communication techniques to effectively convey natural resource information, decisions, and opinions.
Teamwork- expanding managerial planning skills within a team environment.
♦ Professionalism- establishing professionalism within an organizational setting.

COURSE GOAL:
Ideally, natural resource management is accomplished by actions and decisions that seek to ensure that the use of the resource is ecologically appropriate, socially acceptable, and economically feasible. These actions and decisions are based on many factors, including scientific knowledge, political and legal processes, culturally-bound values, beliefs and traditions, and professional judgment. The intent of this course is to assist you in transitioning from an academic to professional environment through the application and integration of your existing expertise and knowledge using the natural resource planning process and teamwork skills. Upon completion of this course, you will have developed skills in natural resource management planning and understand the principles and components necessary to create a comprehensive natural resource management plan that meets the objectives of a private landowner or public land manager.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
During and following this course you will demonstrate your ability to:

Planning Process
♦ Effectively define a problem or issue and its scope.
♦ Define realistic objectives to assess or solve a problem or issue.
♦ Assess the constraints and feasibility (social, economic, and bio-physical) of a proposed plan.
♦ Develop and explain a step-by-step process of implementing a plan.
♦ Critically evaluate a plan after its implementation and develop measures to adjust the plan.

Information Processing
♦ Engage in collaborative planning and problem solving that involves bringing together diverse experiential knowledge and primary and secondary scientific information to address natural resource issues.
♦ Locate, gather, and organize information to address natural resource situations.
♦ Critically assess the validity and reliability of information typically used in natural resource decision-making.
♦ Utilize the forestry, wildlife, and fisheries management knowledge gained in previous coursework to address natural resource issues.

Attitudes, Beliefs, and Values
♦ Recognize the personal values, belief, and attitudes that people hold towards the environment and natural resource management.
♦ Apply the professional ethics advanced in your discipline.

Communication
♦ Use professional writing and oral skills to clearly and persuasively articulate, organize, and justify your ideas and technical knowledge across disciplines to experts and the lay public.
♦ Construct, deliver, and defend professional presentations on interdisciplinary topics targeted for peers and general public audiences (appearance, use of visual aids, etc.).
♦ Work effectively in groups and interdisciplinary teams.
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:
This course will involve some lecture content. However, we will devote a significant proportion of class time to discussion, Q&A, teamwork, and natural resource management plan preparation. At times during the semester, other faculty will come in and give lectures on various topics. The material covered in these lectures is only intended to serve as a refresher and will focus on subjects or concepts students have found difficult to apply when preparing their management plans in previous years. In general, you are expected to already have the knowledge and skills needed to prepare your management plan and there will not be extensive lectures on topics covered in other courses taken during your degree program.

We will only meet in class once a week for 2 to 3 hours. From time to time it may be necessary for me to adjust the class schedule to meet the needs of other faculty speaking in class, progress of student teams, and the general dynamics of the class. Therefore, the class schedule is tentative, and it is your responsibility to keep track of changes announced in class.

Effective interactive team learning requires that you attend all classes and come to class prepared to work on your team natural resource management plan. You should bring all of your management plan materials and a laptop or tablet to every class. Although, you will have time to work on individual and team assignments in class, it is anticipated that you will need to spend at least 3 to 6 hours per week, sometimes more, working on individual and team assignments outside of class time.

TEXTS/MATERIALS/RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE:
All course materials will be available on the course Blackboard website (https://bblearn.utk.edu), which can be accessed through your Online@UT account.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:
You will be evaluated on both an individual and team assignments. Detailed information on each assignment will be provided in class and on Blackboard under “Assignments”. You can find due dates for assignments in the course calendar, which is also available on Blackboard.

♦ Individual Assignments:

• *Biography*- At the beginning of the semester you will prepare a brief personal biography for inclusion in your management plan company brochure.

• *Case study analysis*- You will conduct an analysis of three case studies. You may use any information source (e.g., notes from previous courses, internet resources, library materials, and discussions with natural resource managers) to complete each analysis but must work alone.

♦ Team Assignments: Natural Resource Management Plan
In teams of 4 to 5 students, you will establish a consulting company and prepare a natural resource management plan for a client. At the end of the semester you will deliver your management plan via a written report and oral presentation. To begin the planning process, you will come up with a consulting company brochure that provides your company name, logo, mission statement, and member biographies. We will work on each section of your natural resource management plan and the information it should contain during class. You will be required to submit a draft version of each section of your natural resource management plan report prior to the submission of your final plan report at the end of the semester. On-time submission of these draft sections will contribute to your grade in the course. In addition, you
will be required to obtain certain components of your inventory data by a given date. The on-time submission of this data will also contribute to your grade in this class. At the conclusion of the semester, you will be given the opportunity to evaluate your fellow team members, based on their contribution to team tasks and assignments. These evaluations will contribute to your team members’ grades.

Grades:
A (92-100%), A- (90-91%), B+ (88-89%), B (82-87%), B- (80-81%), C+ (78-79%), C (72-77%), C- (70-71%), D+ (68-69%), (D (60-69%), F (≤59%).

Assignment/Scoring Summary:

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Team (T) or Individual (I)</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
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<td>Biography</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Consulting Company Brochure</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Draft management plan report- Introduction and site description</td>
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<td>Draft management plan report- Management objectives</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Timber inventory data collection</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Case study analysis</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Draft management plan report- Current conditions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Draft management plan report- Management recommendations</td>
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<td>Draft management plan report- Budget and monitoring protocol</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Final written management plan report</td>
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COURSE POLICIES:
The following policies will apply in this course:

♦ Your participation in all class sessions is essential. This includes the times I have scheduled for you to work with your team during class. Any more than 2 class absences (e.g., illness, field trip in another course, job interview) will be considered excessive, without appropriate justification, resulting in a reduction in your total course score of 3% per absence. For example if you missed class 4 times over the semester, your total course score would be reduced 6% at the end of the semester.

♦ All written assignments, whether individual or team, are due on Blackboard by 5:00 pm on the date stated in the course calendar. Generally, I will not accept assignments if they are submitted late and/or electronically via email.

♦ All assignments and projects must be typed and checked for grammar and spelling, with a line spacing of at least 1.5, and a minimum font size of 11 point.

♦ You must bring to my attention any issue regarding grading within 1 week of the assignment being graded and returned.

♦ You all agree to common courtesy as a rule of classroom conduct. It is however, appropriate, for you to constructively critique another person’s values, ideas, and beliefs, and to engage in debate in a civilized manner.

♦ Any deviations from the established policies and due dates will be allowed only with prior approval by me.
COURSE CONDUCT:
When you enroll at the University of Tennessee you pledge to hold yourself and your peers to the standards of academic honesty and integrity as described in the Academic Policies and Code of Conduct. You are expected to uphold your pledge to honesty and integrity in this course. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Visit: http://studentconduct.utk.edu/students_current_standards.php to read more about the University of Tennessee Academic Policies and Standards of Conduct, behavior that constitutes academic dishonesty, and sanctions.

I will not permit any form of plagiarism. Plagiarism involves passing off the ideas, words, writing, etc., of another as one’s own. For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it visit: http://studentconduct.utk.edu/students_current_dishonesty.php.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:
Every possible accommodation will be made to allow students with disabilities to complete the course successfully. Visit: see http://ods.utk.edu/ for information on the University of Tennessee Office of Disability Services and to submit an application for disability accommodation.

COUNSELING:
Students having class-related problems should regularly meet with me. Additionally, there are numerous support services (http://www.utk.edu/currentstudents/) on campus for students having various personal, career, and academic problems. I encourage you to take advantage of these. The University of Tennessee Counseling Center (http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/) provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

AS THE INSTRUCTOR, I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REVISE, ALTER, AND AMEND THIS SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY. STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING AND/OR BY EMAIL OF ANY SUCH REVISIONS, ALTERATIONS, AND AMENDMENTS.