Course Title:
Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography: Landscape Ecology and Biological Conservation

Course Number:
GEOG 6240-103

Course Description:
This course is a broad introduction to the principles of landscape ecology, a survey of the theory and methods landscape ecologists use to best understand patterns and processes across a land mosaic and the relationships thereof to biological diversity.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: October 17-23, 2011
Location: Hurlburt Field, Florida. Class will be held in Bldg. 90220, 221 Lukasik Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri; 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 18, 2011

This military installation is not open to the general public. In order to take courses at this installation, students must have a current military or Department of Defense identification card which allows them to access the installation.

Site Director:
Kelly Gaskell. Field Assistant: Javier Ruiz. Phone: 850-581-3000; Fax: 850-581-3004; E-mail: aphurlburt@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Todd Fagin, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 100 E. Boyd
SEC 684
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-325-5325
Fax Number: 405-325-6090
E-mail Address: tfagin@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after each class session. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: See tentative course schedule for reading list schedule. All articles will be posted on D2L. Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

Few descriptions of a landscape are as evocative or elegant as *mosaic*. Like a canvas consisting of tessellated objects, any given landscape is a patchwork of varying land use and land cover types, a product of interactions between environmental gradients and disturbance regimes. However, unlike a Hellenistic or Byzantine mosaic designed to produce *static* images of cultural or spiritual significance, a land mosaic is both spatially heterogeneous and temporally variable.

Landscape ecology is a multidisciplinary science dedicated to the study of this landscape heterogeneity in both space and time. Specifically, landscape ecology emphasizes the effects of landscape *patterns* at a variety of scales on the *processes* that determine the abundance and distribution of biota. Landscape ecology incorporates analysis of both the biophysical and socioeconomic causes and consequences of landscape heterogeneity. In so doing, landscape ecology addresses many contemporary ecological issues, from habitat fragmentation and land use planning to wildlife management and environmental conservation.

This course is a broad introduction to the principles of landscape ecology, a survey of the theory and methods landscape ecologists use to best understand patterns and processes across a land mosaic. Specifically, the goal of the course is to expound in great detail on the following topics:

- Defining and characterizing landscape patterns and processes
- Factors influencing the development of landscape patterns
- Biological consequences of landscape patterns
- Methods to analyze landscape patterns and processes
- Landscape dynamics
- Landscape management

Seminar meetings will combine lectures with both instructor and student led discussions of foundation and contemporary readings from the broad discipline of landscape ecology. The course, despite being a graduate level seminar, is intended to be an introductory class for those with little or no background in landscape ecology.

**Course Outline:** (Subject to revisions as needed)

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<th>Topic Description</th>
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<td>10/17</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>10/18</td>
<td>History, Development, and Principles of Landscape Ecology</td>
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<td>Causes of Landscape Patterns: Physical and Biotic Factors; disturbance</td>
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Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

This is a graduate level seminar and the only way to succeed is regular attendance and full participation in discussions. If you must miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor prior to class. The bulk of your grade is based on attendance/participation. Additionally, students are required to write three synopsis (discussed below). The final component of your grade is based on in-class exercises. However, since these exercises are largely contingent on students’ prior experiences, some of these points may be rolled into your participation grade if we must forgo some or all of the assignments.

Synopsis Essays: Each student will write 3 brief (3 to 5 pages) synopsis of a student-selected aspect of the course readings. In essence, these are to be mini literature reviews of the readings in the class. Examples of topics include (but certainly are not limited to) the role of scale in landscape ecology studies, biological consequences of habitat fragmentation, and/or landscape indices to study landscape structure. Students will also do brief (5 to 10 minutes) presentations of each of their essays.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

- Class participation (discussions, attendance, etc.): 50%
- Assignments (in-class assignments): 20%
- Synopsis essays (10% each; including presentations): 30%

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Todd D. Fagin, Ph.D.

Education

- May 2009, Ph.D. Geography, University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
- May 2002, M.A. Geography, University of Oklahoma College of Geosciences
- August 1993, B.A. Letters, University of Oklahoma, College of Arts and Sciences
- August 1992: German Language Institute, Holzkirchen, Germany, University of Kansas

Current Positions

Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Biological Survey; Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Landscape Ecology
- Biogeography
- Geographic Information Systems and Science
- Physical Geography
- Cultural Geography

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications

Recent Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2009: Outstanding Adjunct Faculty, Oklahoma City Community College Division of Information Technology
- 2008: Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program Grant Title: The National Vegetation Standards: Implementation and Outreach for the State of Oklahoma.
- 2003: John M. Caldwell Memorial Graduate Teaching Award, University of Oklahoma Department of Geography
- 2002: NASA EPSCoR Student Fellowship Stipend, University of Oklahoma
- 2000: NASA Space Grant Fellowship, University of Oklahoma

Major Professional Affiliations

- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Ecological Society of America (ESA)
- International Biogeography Society (IBS)
- International Association of Landscape Ecology (IALE)