Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a Change in Course
Undergraduate • Graduate • Professional
Submit original form and attachments

1. This request is submitted by the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management.
2. Course prefix, number and complete title of course: FRSC 614, Economic Analysis for Forest Resource Decisions

Attach a brief supporting statement for changes made to items 3a thru 3d, and 5 below.

3. Change requested
   a. Prerequisite(s): From: ECON 202 or approval of instructor To: Graduate classification
   b. Withdrawal (reason): 
   c. Cross-list with:

   Cross-listed courses require the signature of both department heads.

   d. Change in course title and description. Enter complete current course title and current course description in item 4; enter proposed course title and proposed course description in item 5.

   e. Change in course number, contact hours (lab & lecture), and semester credit hours. Complete item 6. Attach a course syllabus.

4. Complete current course title and current course description: Economic Analysis for Forest Resource Decisions. Concepts of managerial economics in forestry; survey of economic analysis and management science techniques to solve forest resource allocation and valuation problems; use of microcomputer-based models to achieve landowner, investor, and social objectives for the ownership, use and management of forestlands.

5. Complete proposed course title and proposed course description (not to exceed 50 words): Ecosystems and Markets. Concepts and analysis of supply chains for natural resource commodities and ecosystem services. Exploration of the economic uses of goods and services from ecosystems.

6. a. As currently in course inventory:

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<th>Prefix</th>
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<td>Economic Analysis for Forest Resource Decisions</td>
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b. Change to:

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<td>670</td>
<td>Ecosystems &amp; Markets</td>
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Approval recommended by: 
Head of Department
Signature: D. Whisenant
Date: 8/7/08

Head of Department (if cross-listed course)
Signature: 
Date: 

Submitted to Coordinating Board by:
Associate Director, Curricular Services
Signature: 
Date: 

Questions regarding this form should be directed to Sandra Williams at 845-8201.
Curricular Services – 11/07
Ben,

Thank you so much for the supportive words. In response to Urs and Richard, I have revised the course syllabus and title. Now, ESSM 670 Ecosystems and Markets should present the focus I intend for the course.

I very much want this course revision of FRSC 614 to go up as part of the ESSM package. It will be much more easily approved as part of that package. Outside of that context, objections over the course may be raised by those who believe that economics and related subjects should only be taught in econ-type departments. In my limited experience, this is true at both the college and university levels. The turf protection was why I was stuck with the FRSC 614 title and such, though I did try to get it changed. That was many years ago, and is ancient history now.

I am certain that I can work with Urs and Richard to alleviate any further objections that they may have.

I have attached a word version of the new syllabus, which I will also send separately to Lindsay. Since I am leaving town, I will leave this in your hands.

Thanks,
Diana

Diana M. Burton
Associate Professor
Department Ecosystem Science and Management Department of Agricultural Economics Texas A&M University

Contacts:
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fax: (979) 845-6049
email: d-burton@tamu.edu

Our intension was to ask you to coordinate between the existing and related courses to make the whole set of courses more cohesive and efficient for student learning. It's possible that
modifications for both courses are needed to best structure the set of courses. Ideally, we should minimize the overlap between courses; if the structure of an individual course need certain materials, some overlap with other courses would be reasonable too. There are situations where we even want certain overlap to reinforce the concepts or go into more depth. Of course, how exactly these should be worked out should be the decision of the instructors (you three).

As for the numbering of the courses, I thought that Ecological Economics is a more specialized course than Diana's course, so I assigned it a higher number. Please correct me if I'm wrong on that. Another reason was to keep Ecological Economics the first of the 3 course series (with EIA and Env Law) as Urs requested.

Cheers, Ben

-----Original Message-----
From: Diana Burton [mailto:d-burton@tamu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2008 10:51 AM
To: Urs Kreuter
Cc: s-whisenant@neo.tamu.edu; Richard Conner; Ben Wu
Subject: Re: Fwd: RE: Syllabus for ESSM 670

Urs and Richard,

Thanks for getting back to me. I'll be happy to remove the conflicting material and the text, and send Ben a revised version of the syllabus this afternoon. I'll keep the focus on commodities that come off the land.

While the title of the course has changed, this course is simply a revision of my forestry course FRSC 614 to reflect the ecosystem focus of our new department and to move it further from land management implications. As such, it is not a new course. However, if Ben wants to rearrange the numbers, that is fine with me.

Later,
Diana

>>> Urs Kreuter 07/22/08 10:32 AM >>>
Hello Diana:

In response to Ben's request, Richard and I have reviewed the draft course syllabus for the proposed new graduate course, ESSM 670 - Economic Analysis of Ecosystems Commodities and Services. The following statement summarizes our joint perceptions about the likely overlap between the proposed syllabus and that of our course, ESSM 771/AGEC 659 - previously RENR 659/AGEC 659.

During the first eight weeks of the proposed course, there seems to be a small amount of overlap with our course, but the proposed approach (supply chain analysis) is so different from
ours that we do not perceive this to be a problem. However, we see a substantial amount of overlap between the two courses with regard to the proposed material in ESSM 670 for weeks 9 through 14 (except weeks 10 and 13). We essentially cover the same material in the first 10 weeks of our course.

In addition, one of the recommended texts for our course is "Daily, Gretchen C. Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems, Island Press, Washington, DC, 1997."

We request that the new course not be submitted for approval before the substantial overlap between it and our existing course is resolved. Currently, we are offering our course every second year but our student numbers have been growing steadily. If we continue to offer the course every alternated year it may not be problematic if the content of the two courses overlap. Another possibility is to modify the content of our course and offer it every year with additional instructors. These options should be discussed before a new course is submitted for approval.

We also wonder why a course that is being proposed has been allocated a lower number than courses that are already established. We recommend that new courses be added to the end of block of courses not the beginning.

Regards,

Urs

>>> Diana Burton 7/17/2008 5:27 PM >>>
Urs and Richard,

Ben wanted me to run this by you. I updated the graduate forest economics course to ecosystems. The focus of this course is on supply chains for the goods and services after they come off the land, not on the ecosystems. I do not want to infringe on your ecological economics course, which seems more focused on economic decisions with respect to ecosystems, internalization of externalities, and the like. I plan to focus on commodities markets, spot and future, and issues in contracting and such for various commodities. I will also cover services supply chains, but not in as much depth.

To my knowledge, the proposed course does not infringe on anything taught in AgEco, as Mjelde's AGEC 604 Natural Resource Economics uses Tietenberg, and is a more traditional resource economics course.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks,
Diana
SYLLABUS
ESSM 670 Ecosystems and Markets
Fall 2008

Catalog description:
ESSM 670 Ecosystems and Markets (3-0) Credit 3. Concepts and economic analysis of supply chains for natural resource commodities and products. Exploration of the economic uses of goods and services from ecosystems. Prerequisites: graduate classification.

Course will be taught all online.

Professor:
Dr. Diana M. Burton, Associate Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management
HFSB 308; 979-845-2577  d-burton@tamu.edu

Course Learning Outcomes: The student should:
1) understand the supply chains for ecosystems commodities and services,
2) understand basic economic analysis methods, valuation techniques, and decision processes used in these supply chains,
3) learn to evaluate economic and financial information in a decision-making context, and
4) learn to effectively communicate economic and market information in a way useful to ecosystem professionals.

Texts and Readings:

Grading:
Commodity Market Report  250 points  A = 100-90
Supply Chain Report  250 points  B = 89-80
Midterm  200 points  C = 79-70
Final Exam  400 points  D = 69-60
Total Points  1000 points  F = <59

Assignments are designed to help the student achieve the course objectives and master the course material with a focus on integrating across topics. In addition, there will be self-study problems and examples to assist with mastery of the material. Students will be held accountable on exams for all course material covered in the texts, selected readings, handouts, assignments, lectures, class discussions, course materials on Blackboard and web links.

The assignments and exams will have specific due dates in Blackboard. In fairness to those who are on time with their work, 10% will be deducted from the assignment grade for each 24 hours late beginning at the end of the class in which the assignments and exams are due. For example, an assignment worth 300 points due Tuesday at 2:00 via Blackboard and turned in Wednesday morning will lose 30 points for lateness.

For any other questions or concerns, please refer to http://student-rules.tamu.edu
Academic Integrity Statement

A professional's integrity is of critical importance to career and personal success. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Aggie Honor Code. Academic dishonesty is defined in the TAMU Student Rules and includes getting or providing unauthorized information, answers or questions on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of information, and conspiracy to commit academic dishonesty. Violation of academic dishonesty policies can lead to penalties ranging from a zero on the assignment or an "F" in the course up to and including expulsion from the University. In this course, students may discuss assignments and projects, but not exams. Each student must independently write up and submit his/her own answers to assignments and do his/her own presentations. On exams, no discussion or working together is permitted. Turning in each assignment, project, or exam for this course will be construed to mean that the student has not received unauthorized aid for the academic work submitted. Plagiarism, or the use of others' words or work without proper attribution, including material from Blackboard, the text or course readings, will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the theft of another's work and ideas. Therefore, all sources used must be cited as appropriate within the essay and a complete list must appear at the end of the document. Web searches and other aids, such as Turnitin.com, may be used to verify the originality of students' work.

Americans with Disabilities Act
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 126 of the Student Services Building or call (979) 845-1637.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction
Anderson, Chapter 1 The Big Picture
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 1, Introduction

Week 2 Economics of Choice and Efficiency
Anderson, Chapter 2 and Appendix, Efficiency and Choice
Selected readings

Week 3 Markets
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 2, Economic Efficiency and Environmental Protection
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 3 The Benefits and Costs of Environmental Protection
Selected Readings on supply chain concepts

Week 4 Commodity Market Types
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 4, The Efficiency of Markets
Selected Readings on market definitions: spot, futures, trading pit, electronic, auction types

Week 5 Market Valuation
Anderson, Chapter 3 Market Failure
Anderson, Chapter 4 The Role of Government
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 5, Market Failures in the Environmental Realm
Selected Readings on market regulation

**Week 6 Commodity Markets**
Anderson, Chapter 5 Trade-offs and the Economy
Anderson, Chapter 6 Environmental Quality
Selected Readings

**Week 7 Commodity Markets**
Anderson, Chapter 14 Natural Resource Management: Depletable and Replenishable Resources
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 6 Natural Resources as Capital Assets
Selected Readings on spot markets, futures markets of major commodities
FAO Commodity Market Review

**Week 8**
*Midterm Review and Test*

**Week 9 Energy Markets**
Anderson, Chapter 7 Energy
Selected Readings energy markets, developing alternative energy markets

**Week 10**
*Market Report Oral Presentations*
Commodity Market Report Due

**Week 11 Ecosystem Commodities and Services**
Anderson, Chapter 8 Sustainability
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 7 Stocks that Grow: The Economics of Renewable Resource Management
Anderson, Chapter 13 Natural Resource Management: Renewable Resources
Selected Readings

**Week 12 Demand for Ecosystem-Derived Products**
Anderson, Chapter 9 Population, Poverty, and Economic Growth
Anderson, Chapter 10 Biodiversity and Valuation
Anderson, Chapter 11 International and Global Issues
Keohane and Olmstead, Chapter 11 Sustainability and Economic Growth
Selected Readings

**Week 13**
*Ecosystem Supply Chain Report Oral Presentations*
Ecosystem Supply Chain Report Due

**Week 14 Conclusions**
Anderson, Chapter 12 Perspectives on Environmental Policy
Anderson, Chapter 16 Morals and Motivation
Selected Readings

**Final**