

## Forestry 441- Course Syllabus

### Sustainable Forestry in Tropical Ecosystems: Ghana West Africa Field Course

Summer 2006

<b>Credits:</b>	3 semester hours		
<b>Location:</b>	Ghana, West Africa (see schedule of activities)		
<b>Dates:</b>	July 21 <sup>st</sup> - August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2006		
<b>Instructors:</b>	Michael R. Wagner	Paul Bosu	Sky Stephens
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#### Course Description:

Tropical forests provide wood products, medicinal plants, foodstuffs, tourism, environmental protection, habitat for wildlife and humans, and the majority of the planet's plant and animal biodiversity. This course examines a broad range of issues related to tropical wet and dry ecosystems including: their distribution, ecology, and management; deforestation issues and actions; conservation management and preservation; community forestry, natural forest management, plantation forestry and agroforestry; ecotourism and cultural tourism; and gender roles, indigenous knowledge and land tenure issues. All of the issues in this course are raised in the context of the social, political, economic, and cultural conditions under which Africans live and work in Ghana. A three week trip across Ghanaian forests will provide students with first hand experience in tropical forestry.

This course meets the NAU Global Diversity Requirement.

#### Course Objectives:

Students will, by the completion of this course:

- Understand current trends in the ecology and management of wet and dry tropical forests throughout the world, with a focus on West Africa
- Appreciate the major challenges for sustainable management of tropical forests, much beyond traditional silviculture and planning requirements; and
- Develop first-hand experience in tropical forest (ecosystem) management in Ghana.
- Understand and participate in forest based economic development through the Bobori Butterfly Sanctuary Ecotourism Project.
- Acquire a social, political, economic and cultural perspective on the role of forestry in the lives of traditional African people.
- Learn the difference in the view of western culture and Ghanaians in how they perceive and value forests.

**Student Learning Expectations/Outcomes:**

- Discuss the differences between the traditional use of forests in tropical and temperate regions
- Demonstrate an understanding of major forestry issues like deforestation, certification and indigenous knowledge that affect developing country forests.
- Describe the social and cultural context in how local Africans view their forest.
- Demonstrate the knowledge of development approaches (i.e. ecotourism, agroforestry) and how the strategies can be effective to achieve broad economic development within a cultural context.

**Course Structure:**

This is a three-week field course.

**Required Textbooks:**

1. Course-pack

**Recommended (optional) Textbooks:**

1. Whitmore, T.C. 1998. An introduction to tropical forests. Second Edition. Oxford University Press. New York, 282 pp.
2. Sharma, N.P. (ed) 1992. Managing the worlds forests. Kendall/hunt publishing Co 665 pp.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

During the course, students will be evaluated based on: a) **participation** (involvement in activities, synthesis and questioning, and punctuality), b) **professionalism**. Each student will be assigned 1 day/event during the course to serve as the group host. The host for the day/event will be responsible for obtaining contact information and writing thank you letters from the class to the professional host, and c) a **journal** describing the main lessons learned each field day. As part of the journal assignments, students should prepare a detailed response to the following synthesis question: contrast Ghanaian and US views of forests and their use. What economic or cultural factors explain this difference? Describe one forest management challenge that Ghanaian foresters face and offer two alternative strategies to address this challenge. Include the answer to this question as the final section of your journal. Journals will be due Monday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 and should contain approximately a one-page typed account for each day of the field course and about 3-5 typed pages for your answer to the synthesis question.

**Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:**

Instructors for the course are engaged with students from breakfast until the end of each day. During breakfast activities for each day are outlined. Student expectations are reviewed and instructors participate in clarifying what is expected from students that day. Throughout the daily activities student participation and professionalism are assessed. During and after the evening meal a discussion of lessons learned for that day are reviewed. Students are asked to actively participate in the discussion and ask questions about what experiences they had that day and how they connected with the

forestry issues presented. Students are encouraged to complete their journal at the end of each day.

The timeline for assessment is a daily assessment of each student's participation and professionalism and a final assessment of their written journal at the end of the course.

**Other Course Policies:**

This course will comply with all academic policy statements established by NAU (see <http://www.jan.ucc.nau.edu/academicadmin/policy.doc>) regarding safe learning environments, disabilities, and integrity.

**Important Contact Numbers:**

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**After Hours Emergency:** (233) 21-775-297

**Email:** [acsaccra@state.gov](mailto:acsaccra@state.gov)

**Medical Information:**

All students participating in this course must demonstrate they are covered by medical insurance. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended vaccines and preventive medical practices are described in the course pack. All CDC recommended procedures must be followed. All students must obtain an International Student Identification card which includes emergency medical evacuation insurance.

It will be each attendee's responsibility to make known all medical/allergy conditions to the course instructors by the completion of medical history forms included in your acceptance packets. Sky Stephens has been formally trained in basic and wilderness first aid and CPR by the American Red Cross. All precautions will be made to ensure your personal safety during this course and first aid as required will be administered while further medical attention is arranged if needed. As medical first aid ethics require, no medication will be administered to a patient. However, the patient may decide to medicate themselves with the appropriate over the counter products. For additional information consult your medical release forms and risk management statements.

## International Field Course Sustainable Tropical Forestry – Ghana

### FOR 441

**July 21<sup>st</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup> 2006**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>Night Location</b>
21-Jul	Fri		Meet at airport	<b>Depart PHX 7:00pm</b>	En route
22-Jul	Sat	Arrive in London	Travel to Accra	<b>Arrive in Accra - pick up at airport, travel to FORIG Guest House ACCRA</b>	Accra
23-Jul	Sun	Travel to Bobiri	Ejisu Market	Introduction to Bobiri	Bobiri
24-Jul	Mon	Ecotourism Programme & Bobiri Project	1. Culture, traditions, customs, language (J. Appiah-Kwarteng)	Develop Ecotourism Project	Bobiri
25-Jul	Tue	Wildlife Mgmt in Ghana followed by bird I.D. (W. Ossom)	Kejetia Experience		Bobiri
26-Jul	Wed	Forestry in Ghana	Develop Ecotourism project		Bobiri
27-Jul	Thu	Gender/ forestry (B. D-Obiri) Agroforestry (F. Ulzen-Appiah)	Develop Ecotourism project		Bobiri
28-Jul	Fri	Travel to Mole National Park	Introductory Lecture on Mole National Park (C. Abakah-Appiah)	Wildlife Viewing	Mole
29-Jul	Sat	Collaborative Management of MNP Visit to local village	Safari	Wildlife Viewing	Mole
30-Jul	Sun	Travel to Bolgatanga	Gia Nbio Agroforestry Project	Savannah Ecosystems: challenges, research, dev't & socio-economic issues (I. Abebebrese)	Bolgotanga

31-Jul	Mon	Dagare Community Forest Reserve	Tour farm houses: Bolga-Navrogo area	Sirigu Ecotourism	Bolgatanga
1-Aug	Tue	Travel Bolga to Bobiri	Lunch stopover at Kintampo Falls	Arrive at Bobiri	Bobiri
2-Aug		Tour FORIG ( Workshop, Snail farm, Mushroom farm, Mesewam nursery, etc (P. Bosu)	Tour IRNR Agroforestry projects & IRNR facilities (F. Ulzen-Appiah)		Bobiri
3-Aug	Wed	Ashanti Cultural Center	Ashanti Cultural Center	Ecotourism project	Bobiri
4-Aug	Thu	Ecotourism Project	Prep for Cape Coast		Bobiri
5-Aug	Fri	Tour Paul's village / village industries: Oil palm extraction, interaction with Domenasi	Garri processing, black smith workshop	Subsistence farms (land tenure system with Paul's family land as example)	Domenasi
6-Aug	Sat	Cape Coast Tour	Travel to Cape Coast, visit Elmina Slave Castle	Kakum National Park	Cape Coast
7-Aug	Sun	Travel to Bobiri	Free		Bobiri
8-Aug	Mon	Ecotourism project	Ecotourism project	Ecotourism project	Bobiri
9-Aug	Tue	Forest hike	Fufu Party		Bobiri
10-Aug	Wed	Complete Ecotourism Project	Pack	Final departure planning	Bobiri
11-Aug	Thu	Depart for Accra	Tour Accra, Visit US Embassy	Depart for U.S	
12-Aug	Fri	<b>Arrive in USA</b>			

