

**Natural Resource and Environmental Valuation: FOR 770**  
**Fall 2013**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

G. Andrew Stainback  
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**Course Description:**

This course will consist of reading and class discussion of techniques, applications, and controversies concerning the valuation of environmental and natural resource assets. Topics will include contingent valuation, travel cost techniques, hedonic methods, replacement costs, and other related topics.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Acquaint the student with the primary literature concerning the broad concepts of forest and natural resource valuation.
2. Improve the student's ability to present in front of peers and to critically assess peer reviewed work
3. Improve student's critical thinking skills

**Readings:**

All readings will be provided to the student.

**Class Attendance:**

There will be valuable content in class discussions that cannot be captured on any assignment. Therefore students are expected to attend all classes. All absences for non-medical reasons must be excused before the missed class. For absences due to medical reasons, a doctor's written note explaining your illness or that of an immediate family member must be provided to me upon return to class. Unexcused or excessive absenteeism will result in a reduction in your course grade.

**Academic Honesty:**

All class work is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a course grade of E. If you have any doubts concerning whether your work conforms to these standards please ask me.

**Assignments and Grades:**

Classes will primarily consist of class discussions of the assigned readings. Readings will be assigned in advance during class. Each week a student (or a small group of students) will lead a class discussion on a paper(s) dealing with natural resource and environmental valuation. Students will have the opportunity to choose some of the papers. Students will be required to read all papers fill out a short questionnaire concerning the paper before class. Student's are expected to meaningfully participate in class discussions. Finally each student will be required to submit a short proposal (~2 pages) to incorporate some topic discussed in the class in their graduate research.

Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Leading discussions - 40%  
Class discussion and participation- 30%  
Weekly Questionnaires - 20%  
Research presentation - 10%

Grading Scale: A=90%-100%; B=80%-89%; C=70%-79%; D=60%-69% E=0%-59%

**Course Website:**

There is a website associated with this course. On this website you will have access to the assigned readings, links to submit your assignments online, an online calendar to book appointments with me, and other resources. You can access this website through Blackboard or directly (<http://for770.weebly.com/>). The password for the site is ukstudent770.

**Office Hours:**

Interacting with faculty outside of class and getting personalized assistance is an important part of your education. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to meet with me outside of regular class time to discuss your coursework, get career or academic advice, or to discuss other topics of interest. My availability to meet with students is generally very flexible and accommodating. However, my schedule does change throughout the semester. To make meeting with me as easy as possible you will have access to an online calendar through the course website where you can schedule meeting times convenient for you.

**Classroom Etiquette**

You are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner during all class activities. This includes coming to class on time, refraining from the use of electronic devices during class and not disrupting the class in any other manner. Discussion and debate are strongly encouraged to facilitate learning and development of critical thinking skills. However you are expected to be civil and respectful to your fellow students and me during all class discussions. Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements can result in dismissal from class or being dropped from the course.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Website: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/contact.html>

Telephone: (859) 257-2754

**Both the content and structure of the class may be modified as the need arises.**