



Division of Natural Resources and the Environment

FNRS 100: Forest Resources in US History

Maymester

May 12 to May 30, 2025

“There is no question that without its forests, the United States of America would have a decidedly different history and would be a decidedly different place than it is today.”

Douglas W. MacCleery

(American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery)

Instructor: Dr. Gloria S. Oporto-Velásquez
Percival 329C, (304) 282 9966

Course Time/Location: This course will be delivered via online format.

Textbook (eBook required)

Armstrong JP, and Oporto GS. 2024. Forest Resources in U.S. History.

ISBN: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/forest-resources-us-history>

Office Hours:

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding this class, please text me at (304) 282 9966 or, email me at gloria.oporto@mail.wvu.edu

Refers your text or email to FNRS 100, and please add your name.

If we decide to virtually meet, here is the link that you must consider:

<https://wvu.zoom.us/j/2529348602?pwd=eElmMmlWWjVEckltZS9Vbmw3b3pFUT09>

Meeting ID: 252 934 8602

Passcode: A211ulus

Course Schedule

This course will be conducted as an online asynchronous course. Our course will be active for **three weeks** and it will run from Monday (12:30 am Eastern) – Friday night (11:55 pm Eastern). The course content is broken into **four Units** and **I we will cover each Unit in 4 days (except Unit 3 that will be covered in 3 days)**. Be aware that you will have some due dates between weekdays. Please see the course schedule for daily work at the end of this document (schedule as well as due dates for discussions, assignments and exams).

General Plan:

Unit 1 (6 chapters): May 12 (Day 1), May 13 (Day 2), May 14 (Day 3) and May 15 (Day 4)

Unit 2 (6 chapters): May 16 (Day 5), May 19 (Day 6), May 20 (Day 7) and May 21 (Day 8)

Unit 3 (6 chapters): May 22 (Day 9), May 23 (Day 10), May 26 (Day 11)

Unit 4: (6 chapters): May 27 (Day 12), May 28 (Day 13), May 29 (Day 14), May 30 (Day 15)

Final Exam: Open May 28 (Day 13) at 12:00 am, and it is due on May 30 at midnight

Course Communications:

You can contact me via the eCampus ‘Course Messages’, or directly to gloria.oporto@mail.wvu.edu

Feedback Response Time:

I will respond to any question or comment quickly, no more than 3h after receiving them. Between 8:00am-5:00pm

ITS Service Desk Winter Hours of Operation:

Open: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

If you need assistance outside of the hours of operation listed above, please email WVUWinter@mail.wvu.edu

Course Description:

Examines human use of forest resources in America from pre-Colombian times to the present. Exploration of factors that impact the use of wood products.

General Education Foundation (GEF):

Forest and Natural Resources 100 counts under GEF requirement F5. Human Inquiry & the Past – Students will interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives to identify patterns, develop analytical reasoning, apply methods of critical inquiry or expand problem-solving skills.

Course Objectives

The course is intended to develop understanding about the use of forest resources and the factors affecting decisions impacting that use. An historical approach will be employed to illustrate how various scientific, technological, and supply issues affect resource use.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the critically important role forests and forest products played in the history and development of the nation. (GEF F5)
2. Describe of the breadth of the history of the use and abuse of forest resources in the U.S. from pre-Columbian to modern times. They will also prove critical thinking skills by analyzing how policymakers and ordinary citizens have distinguished between the two during different eras in American history. (GEF F5)

3. Assess how societal attitudes toward forest resources have changed over time and how human attitudes and values have led to development of the American conservation movement; growth of the conservation professions (forestry, wildlife management, and wood science); and implementation of government policy to both protect forests and promote use of forest products. (GEF F5)
4. Demonstrate reasonable knowledge of how anatomical, chemical, physical, and mechanical properties of various woods native to North America have influenced the wide variety of products that have come from wood. (GEF F5)
5. Compare how demand and use of wood-based products has changed over time from a regional to a global perspective and the impact of that use on society and the environment. (GEF F5)
6. Summarize the principal applications of wood and wood-based materials including the important positive and negative attributes of the use of those products and those of alternative materials. (GEF F5)
7. Recognize the major policy, regulation, environmental and other societal issues that impact the manufacturing and use of wood-based products. (GEF F5)
8. Distinguish sound from unsound decisions concerning their personal use of resources and land based upon critical environmental, economic, and societal criteria. (GEF F5)

Course Grading

Point Allotment		Course Grade	
Exam 1	150	A	100 - 90%
Exam 2	150	B	89 - 80%
Exam 3	150	C	79 - 70%
Exam 4 (Final, comprehensive)	300	D	69 - 60%
Assignment (6, 25 pts each)	150	F	less than 60%
Discussions (4, 25 pts each)	100		
Total	1,000		

“Incompletes” will not be given for the course. The above items are requirements to be met by the end of the semester.

Grading Policy:

Grading will be in accordance with the procedures outlined in the current University Catalog. A student believing that a mistake has been made in grading has 3 days following return of the examination or assignment to notify me. If we agree that an error has been made, the grade will be corrected; if not we will explain the reasons to the student. Grades are non- negotiable except in cases of instructor error. All late work will receive a 10% deduction in point value for each 24-hour period it is late (including weekend, holidays and days WVU is not open).

Exams:

Exams will be delivered via eCampus. To utilize eCampus go to <http://ecampus.wvu.edu> and log in to the WVU Main Campus with your MIX ID and password. You will find the exams under the Assessments tool.

Be aware that Exams 1-4 will be open for some days, and they will be due on specific Days. Exam 4 (final) is comprehensive and **MUST** be completed by the Finals Day. You can take each exam twice. The higher grade will be recorded.

Assignments (6):

Homework assignments will be accessed in eCampus. Students will need to complete the work and submit their original and individual work in eCampus. Each assignment is worth 25 points.

Discussions (4):

Discussions will be accessed in eCampus.

Discussions will be required for each unit. Your initial post is due the day of the opening unit. During the second day for the given unit, you are required to respond and ask at least one meaningful question of two separate classmate's posts. During the third day for the given unit, you will need to answer all questions posted to your initial post. If for any reason you do not receive any question the second day for the given unit, ask another question to any of your classmates. I would like to see at least 4 posts for each student (per Discussion)

Your initial post for Discussion 1 (D1) is due on DAY 1. Each Discussion is worth 25 points.

Course Conduct:

We do not permit solicitation for businesses, distribution of political material, circulation of petitions, political organizing, or announcements of political organization meetings in my courses. (Refer to the Student Organizations Services list of such organizations under "political, environmental and special concerns.")

Student Evaluation of Instruction Statement

Effective teaching is a primary mission of West Virginia University. Student evaluation of instruction provides the university and the instructor with feedback about your experiences in the course for review and course improvement. Your participation in the evaluation of course instruction is both strongly encouraged and highly valued. Results are strictly confidential, anonymous, and not available to the instructor until after final grades are released by Admissions and Records. Information about how you can complete this evaluation will be provided by your instructor. [adopted 4-14-2008]

Sale of Course Material Statement

All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other course materials provided to students for their courses are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized purchase or sale of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the Student Conduct Code. (<https://studentconduct.wvu.edu/policies-and-procedures>)

Attendance Policy

At West Virginia University, class attendance contributes significantly to academic success. While this is an online course, students should join the classroom regularly. Active students tend to earn higher grades and have higher passing rates in courses. Excessive absences may jeopardize students' grades or even their ability to continue in their courses. There is a strong correlation between regular class attendance and academic success. Faculty are strongly

encouraged to require attendance in all 100-level classes.

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#enrollmenttext>

Course Netiquette

The basic premise is that the etiquette expected of students in the online environment is the same as that expected in a classroom. Common courtesy is the guiding rule of Internet communications. Be prepared to communicate effectively when taking an online course. Following these simple netiquette rules in your online class or education environment will ensure your success:

- Never type in ALL CAPS, because it reads as if you ARE SHOUTING AT PEOPLE.
- Act as professionally, via your writing, as you would in a face to face classroom.
- Refrain from inappropriate language and derogatory or personal attacks.
- Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Disagree with ideas, but avoid challenges that may be interpreted as a personal attack.
- Check that you are replying to the specific person you intend, and not to the entire class.
- Never give your password to another person.
- Respect the virtual classroom. Never forward in-class communications or posts by others outside of this virtual space.
- Never spam your classmates.
- If you quote someone's previous post, only quote enough to make your point.

Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty

The WVU Catalog (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/>) contains the full Academic Standards Policy.

Academic Integrity Statement

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University Academic Standards Policy (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/>). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Inclusivity Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. (<https://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/>)

More information is available at the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (<https://diversity.wvu.edu/>) as well.

Sexual Misconduct Statement

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [BOG Policy 44]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/staff>)

If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Carruth Center, 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), 304- 292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline).

For more information, please consult WVU's Title IX Office (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/confidential-resources>).

Technical Requirements

Students need to have access to a computer for word processing, e-mail access to eCampus. Access to the Internet is necessary for completion of this course. Run the Browser Check. This tool will check that you are using a supported Internet browsers and have a valid Java version installed. The required technical skills to participate in this course are:

- Navigate the web
- Use email with attachments
- Create and submit files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Copy and paste
- Download and install software
- Consult software tutorials and other online sources as a method of learning software features

Technical Support

Technical support regarding your use of eCampus is available by contacting 304-293-4444 (telephone), 1-877-327-9260 (toll free number), itshelp@mail.wvu.edu (email), and/or <http://it.wvu.edu> (website).

	End Date	Reading	Exam	Discussion	Assignment	Instructor
Unit 1						
DAY 1 Mon	5/12	Course Introduction Ch 1: Forests of the United States		D1: Initial Post Due DAY 1		Dr. Oporto
DAY 2 Tue	5/13	Ch 2: Formation of America's Ancient Forests Ch 3: Civilizations		D1: Ask questions of 2 students Due DAY 2		Dr. Oporto
DAY 3 Wed	5/14	Ch 4: 1491 Ch 5: The Pristine Myth: Landscape of the Americas 1492		D1: Respond to Questions Due DAY 3	Assignment 1 Due DAY 4 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 4 Thu	5/15	Ch 6: Shaping the American Landscape	<i>Exam 1 (Ch 1-6) Open DAY 1 Due DAY 4 (Midnight)</i>			Dr. Oporto
Unit 2						
DAY 5 Fri	5/16	Ch 7: Freedom and Liberty: The Four Migrations from Britain Ch 8: Wooden Ships		D2: Initial Post Due DAY 5	Assignment 2 Due Day 6 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 6 Mon	5/19	Ch 9: American Building Construction: 1607 – ca. 1833 Ch 10: Wood Use in Everyday Life: A Walk-through Williamsburg		D2: Ask questions of 2 students Due DAY 6		Dr. Oporto
DAY 7 Tue	5/20	Ch 11: Early Commercial Uses of the Forest		D2: Respond to Questions Due DAY 7	Assignment 3 Due DAY 8 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 8 Wed	5/21	Ch 12: The Innovation of Light Frame Construction	<i>Exam 2 (Ch 7-12) Open DAY 5 Due DAY 8 (Midnight)</i>			Dr. Oporto

Please see next page for Units 3 & 4

Course Schedule (continued from previous page)

	End Date	TOPIC	Exam	Discussion	Assignment	
Unit 3						
DAY 9 Thu	5/22	Ch 13: Lessons from Gettysburg and Petersburg Ch 14: American Land Policy: 1787 – 1891		D3: Initial Post Due DAY 9	Assignment 4 Due DAY 10 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 10 Fri	5/23	Ch 15: Railroads Ch 16: Lumbering and the Land: 1869 – 1929		D3: Ask questions of 2 students Due DAY 10		Dr. Oporto
DAY 11 Mon	5/26	Ch 17: The American Conservation Movement Ch 18: The Birth of Forestry in America		D3: Respond to Questions Due DAY 11	Assignment 5 Due DAY 12 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 12 Tue	5/27	Ch 19*: The Oak-Chestnut Forest <i>*Chapter 19 is part of Unit 4</i>	Exam 3 (Ch 13-18) Open DAY 9 Due DAY 12 (Midnight)			Dr. Oporto
Unit 4						
DAY 13 Wed	5/28	Ch 20: Conflict Over Forests Ch 21: Fire		D4: Initial Post Due DAY 13		Dr. Oporto
DAY 14 Thu	5/29	Ch 22: The Global Wood Products Market		D4: Ask questions of 2 students Due DAY 14	Assignment 6 Due DAY 15 (Midnight)	Dr. Oporto
DAY 15 Fri	5/30	Ch 23: The Ideal Green Material Ch 24: Residential Construction & Materials Use 21st Century		D4: Respond to Questions Due DAY 15		Dr. Oporto
Finals Day (5/30)			Exam 4 (Ch 1-24) Open DAY 13 Due Finals Day			Dr. Oporto