



## WDSC 100: Forest Resources in US History

“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. Greg Dahle  
Percival 338-B, 304-293-6292

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

Textbook (required)

Armstrong, James P. 2010. Forest Resources in US History. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. 322 pp.

Office Hours:

By appointment.

Call or email me to set any other specific time to meet.

Zoom address for office hours: <https://wvu.zoom.us/j/95829540543>

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 May 9 until Friday May 27. 12:30 am Eastern. The course content is broken into four Units and you will have an exam at the end of each Unit, the final exam is cumulative. 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 9 - May 13 (Chapters 1-6, Discussion 1, Exam 1)  
Unit 2 (6 chapters): May 14 - May 18 (Chapters 7-12, Discussion 2, Exam 2)  
Unit 3 (6 chapters): May 19 - May 23 (Chapters 13-18, Discussion 3, Exam 3)  
Unit 4: (6 chapters): May 24-May 27 (Chapters 19-24, Discussion 4, Final Exam)

Final Exam (cumulative): May 27

Course Communications:

You can contact me via the eCampus 'Course Messages' only.

Feedback Response Time:

I will respond to any question or comment quickly, between 8:30 -4:00 pm Eastern.

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):

Wood Science 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%
<u>Discussions (4, 25 pts each)</u>	<u>100</u>		
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 Exams tool.

Be aware that Exams 1-3 will be open for several days early and they will be due on specific Days. Exam 4 (finals day) is comprehensive and MUST be completed by the Final Day. You can only take each exam once.

#### Assignments:

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.

#### 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.”)

#### WVU Policies and Statements

Please see the WVU Teaching and Learning site for the official WVU Policies and Statements:

<https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty

Accessibility Statement (see Inclusivity Statement)

Adverse Weather Statement

Appropriate Use of Technology Statement

Attendance Policy

Campus Safety Statement

Class Recording Policy

COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

Inclusivity Statement

Incomplete Policy  
 Mental Health Statement - Main Campus  
 Mental Health Statement - HSC Campus  
 Sale of Course Material Statement  
 Sexual Misconduct Statement  
 Student Evaluation of Instruction Statement  
 Academic Integrity Statement

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

#### 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](mailto:itshelp@mail.wvu.edu) (email), and/or <http://its.wvu.edu> (website).

	Date	Reading	Exam	Discussion	Assignment
Unit 1					
Day 1	May 9	Course Introduction Ch 1: Forests of the United States		D1: Initial Post	
Day 2	May 10	Ch 2: Formation of America's Ancient Forests Ch 3: Civilizations		D1: Ask questions of 2 students	
Day 3	May 11	Ch 4: 1491 Ch 5: The Pristine Myth: Landscape of the Americas 1492		D1: Respond to Questions	
Day 4	May 12	Ch 6: Shaping the American Landscape			Assignment 1
Day 5	May 13		Exam 1 (Ch 1-6) Opens DAY 1		
Unit 2					

Day 6	May 14	Ch 7: Freedom and Liberty: The Four Migrations from Britain Ch 8: Wooden Ships		D2: Initial Post	
Day 7	May 15	Ch 9: American Building Construction: 1607 – ca. 1833		D2: Ask questions of 2 students	Assignment 2
Day 8	May 16	Ch 10: Wood Use in Everyday Life: A Walk-through Williamsburg Ch 11: Early Commercial Uses of the Forest		D2: Respond to Questions	
Day 9	May 17	Ch 12: The Innovation of Light Frame Construction			Assignment 3
Day 10	May 18		Exam 2 (Chs 7-12) Opens DAY 6		

Date	TOPIC	Exam	Discussion	Assignment
Unit 3				
Day 11	May 19	Ch 13: Lessons from Gettysburg and Petersburg Ch 14: American Land Policy: 1787 – 1891	D3: Initial Post	Assignment 4
Day 12	May 20	Ch 15: Railroads Ch 16: Lumbering and the Land: 1869 – 1929	D3: Ask questions of 2 students	
Day 13	May 21	Ch 17: The American Conservation Movement	D3: Respond to Questions	

Day 14	May 22	Ch 18: The Birth of Forestry in America			Assignment 5
Day 15	May 23		Exam 3 (Chs 13-18) Opens DAY 11		
Unit 4					
Day 16	May 24	Ch 19: The Oak-Chestnut Forest Ch 20: Conflict Over Forests		D4: Initial Post	
Day 17	May 25	Ch 21: Fire Ch 22: The Global Wood Products Market		D4: Ask questions of 2 students	
Day 18	May 26	Ch 23: The Ideal Green Material Ch 24: Residential Construction & Materials Use 21st Century		D4: Respond to Questions	Assignment 6
Day 19	May 27		Exam 4 (Chs 1-24) Opens DAY 15		