

SUSTAINABLE FOREST CERTIFICATION FOR 285

Course Syllabus – Fall 2004

Professors:

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Office Hours: TTH 9:00 am – 11:00 am or by appointment

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Office Hours: Mon. 3:00-4:30, Thurs. 3:30-4:30. Must call 656-4055 for appointment

Meeting Time and Place:

Wed. 1:25-5:00
Lafayette L307

Class Web Site: <http://www.uvm.edu/~cdanks/FOR285>

Credits: 3

Required Readings:

We will hand out readings in class and/or will post them on the class web page

Course Description and Objectives:

This seminar will address international, national, and regional efforts to develop a system for producing and marketing forest products in an environmentally, economically, and socially responsible manner. The course will consist primarily of field trips and guest lectures by speakers representing a diversity of perspectives. Students are encouraged to actively engage the instructors and guest speakers in discussion and debate. The purpose of the field trips is to present the forest certification movement in its entirety: from the relevant organizations and institutions, to on-the-ground examples of sustainable forest management practices and research, to marketing and construction using certified materials.

Course Requirements:

Students will produce three, two- page essays evaluating material presented by speakers and in readings. Students will also complete an individual or group project addressing either a current topic in forest certification or a project related to certification scoping for the UVM Jericho Research Forest. Class attendance, completion of readings, and participation in discussions also are required.

Essays: 30%
Homework: 10%
Project: 45%
Participation: 15%

Course Outline and Schedule (See web-page for updates):

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Introduction and organizational meeting, video

Wednesday, September 8th

Speakers: Dr. Cecilia Danks and Bill Keeton

Topics: Introduction to forest certification – overview of key issues and history; discussion; SFI vs. FSC

Wednesday, September 15th

Field trip: Hike through the UVM Jericho Research Forest

Topics: Forest certification assessments; special considerations for research forests and plantations

Guest speaker: John Shane

Wednesday, September 22nd

Field trip: Middlebury College

Topics: Examples of construction using certified materials; LEED certification; institutional purchasing

Wednesday, September 29th

Field trip: FSC certified forests near Bristol, VT;

Guest speaker: David Brynn, Addison County Forester and Director, Vermont Family Forests

Web page: <http://www.familyforests.org/>

Wednesday, October 6th

Field trip: A. Johson Timber Mill, Middlebury College

Topics: Certified mill operations, SFI certification approach: pros and cons

Wednesday, October 13th

Field Trip: Smartwood, Richmond, VT

Topics: Certification systems and implementation; Principles underlying forest certification: ecological and socio-economic; Standard setting process

Web page: <http://www.smartwood.org/>

Speaker: Richard Donovan

Wednesday, October 20th

Project work day

Wednesday, October 27th

Guest speaker: Thom McEvoy, UVM extension forester

Topic: Timber industry reaction to certification; small-landowner issues; operator issues and practical considerations; positive impact forestry

Wednesday, November 3rd

Guest speaker: Alan Pierce

Topics: Certification of non-timber forest products

Saturday, November 6th

Guest speaker: Alan Calfee, Consulting forester

Field Trip: Merck Forest, Rupert, VT

Web page: <http://www.merckforest.org/>

Wednesday, November 10th

Guest speaker: Bryan Foster, UVM Ph.D. candidate

Field Trip: Business side of certification; ISO 1400, integrated auditing

Wednesday, November 17th

Guest speaker: Dr. David Capen, UVM School of Natural Resources

Topics: Role of the science expert in certification; State forest certification efforts;

Discussion of readings

Wednesday, December 1st

Field Trip: Beeken and Parsons, Co., Shelburne Farms, VT

Topics: Marketing and chain-of-custody certification; certified furniture manufacturing

Wednesday, December 8th

Speaker: Dr. Bill Keeton

Topics: plantation forestry and certification; regional indicators; innovative experiments for sustainable forestry; general discussion of readings

Speaker: Dr. Cecilia Danks

Topics: Certification as a global system; emerging socio-economic issues in certification; discussion of readings

Class presentations and party