

FORESTRY 209 - FOR209
BASIC TREE WORKER SKILLS
FALL 2021
2 SH – STARS# 65997

Instructor: Paul Blome
Office Phone: 298-1160
Office Hours: M W 1-1:50pm, T Th 12-12:50

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Last day to add course during open registration: 08/27/2021 **Last day to add by permission or delete course:** 09/03/2021 **Last day to drop course with "W" grade:** 10/31/2021

Course Meeting Times in room KH 201:
Lecture: M 3-3:50 **Lab:** W 3-4:50

Text(s): (No Required Text) Study materials will comprise industry training articles from the tree care industry and various websites and tree company handouts.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course the student will.....

- be required to learn and follow the skills of safe tree climbing
- practice safe and proper operation of climbing and tree care equipment including ropes and saddles, ladders, saws, pruners, chainsaws, chippers, and stump grinders
- be able to make proper pruning cuts on trees with a variety of tools
- gain experience in felling trees safely

Topics:

- General tree worker safety
- Ropes & Knots
- Climbing systems
- Pruning
- Rigging
- Tree Removal
- Cabling
- First Aid & emergency response

Lab Topics:

- General safety practices
- Equipment inspection and use
- Tree climbing knots and techniques
- Chainsaw safety training
- Chipper & stump grinder safety and operation
- Pruning & tree felling
- Controlled lowering of limbs

Lab Exercises: Labs will usually be out in the field. Instructor and guest professionals will demonstrate skills for the class and check off skills that students achieve proficiency in. Students are expected to come to class in appropriate clothing, prepared to actively learn skills while practicing proper safety, climbing techniques and proper use of arborist equipment. Students are cautioned not to miss any labs as most cannot be made up.

Distribution of Points for Course Grade:

Midterm	(100 pts)	17%
Final (Weds Dec 15th 3PM - KH 201)	(100 pts)	17%
Skills check-offs	(300 pts)	50%
Chainsaw training/felling field trip (Fri/Sat)	(100 pts)	16%

Grade Scale %:

<60	60	63	67	70	73	77	80	83	87	90	93-100
F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

!!!!SAFETY!!!!

SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS CLASS. Safety will be stressed and practiced at all times. Aerial tree work is included in a job category known to be one of the most injury-prone professions in the U.S. **Because of the risky nature of this type of work, students must sign a liability waiver, be in good physical condition and have the maturity to obey rules.**

Field Trip: (100 pts) I will try to arrange a special (local) field trip. **Guest speaker(s)** (tree industry professionals) will be **donating their personal time to our class** on a Friday and/or Saturday (Dates to be determined by availability of our guest(s)) Class attendance and participation on both days is mandatory. This field trip cannot be made up. Friday starts at 8am and goes until 4pm. 1-hour lunch Friday is on your own. Saturday will start at 8am. We should be done by noon on Saturday.

Professional Conduct: On this field trip **YOU** are representing Western Illinois University, the College of Business and Technology, the School of Agriculture, its Urban Forestry Program, and Yourself. The field trip is an extension of the classroom and you are there to learn. To maximize your learning, you need to be in full control of your mental and physical capacities. Our invited speaker(s) are committing their valuable time to share their knowledge and experiences with us. You are expected to act and dress in a professional manner. You are expected to be attentive and ask questions. **Show our guest speaker(s) how much we appreciate their generosity and commitment to the future workers in the tree care industry (WIU students).** **If you do not conduct yourself in a professional manner, you will not get any credit.**

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is important to fully comprehend and apply the lessons. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. If a student is going to miss a class, it is his/her responsibility to notify the appropriate faculty member in advance. **This must be done by utilizing email and the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) at www.wiu.edu/oars.** It is the responsibility of the student to discuss the absence with the faculty member should the student desire to make up any academic work missed because of the absence.

Attendance on dates of tests: Students with an unscheduled absence at the time of an announced exam are not entitled to take the exam. If you have some conflict with the date and time of a scheduled exam, you must notify the instructor **before** the exam via OARS. The instructor will determine if you will be allowed to reschedule the exam.

Extended absence policy:

If a student misses three weeks worth of classes (continuously or cumulatively) the student will be asked to drop/withdraw from the course or have their cumulative grade reduced to 75% of what they have earned.

WIU ASSIGNMENT AND CHEATING POLICY :

See <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Comparing and/or consulting on exam answers; use of unauthorized notes or aids (phones, etc..) during tests as well as other acts of "cheating" in class or in the field may result in failing grades; in extreme cases even course failure.

I encourage you to obtain help if you do not understand a topic or an assignment. I am available at most any time outside of my classes to assist you. Please see my office hours for scheduling appointments face to face. (if face to face meetings are not possible, we can arrange to meet via Zoom or Google Meet.)

CLASS TOBACCO PRODUCT POLICY:

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/smokingtobaccouse.php> In accordance with State law, there is no smoking in class or vehicles during field trips.

Chewing tobacco (and spitting chewing tobacco) in class is not permitted. Outdoor labs and field trip participation is considered as class – NO SMOKING or use of tobacco products is permitted.

CELL PHONE POLICY: Cell phone use in class is not permitted.

Cell phone/smart phone use is strictly prohibited on exams. In order to participate in the WIU Emergency Alert System you should have your cell phones set to a silent mode.

http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/risk_management_and_emergency_preparedness/wiu_emergency_alert_system/index.php

Professional Cell Phone Conduct: PLEASE DO NOT answer phone calls or send text messages during class!

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Students who require special accommodations (academic or COVID) should contact the Disability Resource Center at 309.298.1884. sdsc@wiu.edu,

http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/disability_resources/ or in 125 Memorial Hall. **Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.**

ATTENTION EDUCATION MAJORS:

The changes within the state certification require all education majors to receive a grade of a "C-" or better in this course in order to meet these requirements. With the university +/- grading system, receiving a "D+" or below will require you to retake this course or find a substitute course to meet School of Agriculture graduation requirements.

UNIVERSITY VALUES & TITLE IX:

University values, title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

NOTICES

Please be advised that **this syllabus is tentative**. We may or may not be able to address all of the content areas or stick with the anticipated number of field trips or exams. **Any deviations from the syllabus will be announced as soon as possible.**

Official University Policy Manual: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/>

For information on all WIU policies for students contact the above website

How COVID-19 is Changing Things:

Policy on Face Coverings in the Classroom

All students and faculty are required to wear a face covering at all times inside academic buildings. Western Illinois University will provide two (2) cloth face coverings to all instructors and students, and replace them when necessary. Individuals may use a personally purchased alternative face covering as appropriate. Employees and students are responsible for laundering their reusable cloth face coverings. It is the responsibility of University units to ensure compliance from employees and students under their purview. Units can also refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on face coverings with regard to type and fit, wearing, and washing. Additionally, no food or drink will be allowed in the classroom.

I plan on our class meeting outside, in person during lab periods. **Facemasks will not be required if we are outside and socially distanced.**

Please find a more detailed explanation of this policy at:

http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_facecovering.php

Policy on Testing and Vaccinations

Western Illinois University is currently not mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for students or employees for the fall 2021 academic year, however, this could change at any time depending on federal and state requirements. The University expects members of the campus community to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. All students, faculty, and staff who physically come to campus are REQUIRED to participate in COVID-19 testing. Individuals may opt out of testing if they provide [proof of vaccination](#). Testing is required (1) time weekly for individuals who do not want to receive the vaccination or who have failed to show proof of vaccination.

Disciplinary Policy on Refusal to Wear a Face Covering

Exceptions to the policy require approval by WIU's Disability Resources Center (DRC) located within the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access. If a student refuses to comply with the policy, and does not have appropriate approval from the DRC, instructors and University officials can request that the student leave the class or activity. If a student is found to be in repeated violation of this policy, instructors and University officials can sanction the student through the student conduct process for violating the WIU Code of Student Conduct code number 17: *"Failing to comply with the directions of or obstructing University officials or law enforcement officers acting in performance of their duties and/or failure to positively identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so."*

Alternative Methods of Instruction

If the University does not permit our class to meet Face to Face at any point during the semester, we will continue the course in an alternative manner. However, I feel students learn tree climbing better in person! Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

(COVID Changes Cont.)

WIU Policy on Taking Attendance and Seat Assignments (COVID-19)

Due to the significant need for contact tracing, it is strongly recommended that faculty members maintain seating charts and take attendance for every face-to-face class meeting.

- Faculty are urged to take attendance and record daily for each face-to-face class.
- In the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19, it will be essential to identify who was in close proximity to the student for possible quarantine. Faculty members must assist contact tracers in this work.
- Taking daily attendance and maintaining consistent seating charts will help to prevent an entire class from the possibility of being quarantined for 14 days or more.

Special Accommodations for Students (COVID-19 related)

Students who require special accommodations (academic or COVID) should contact the Disability Resource Center at 309.298.1884.

The University is committed to accommodate the needs of those faculty members and students who are in circumstances where they or a person they live with are at risk. It is understood that some students may not be able to attend in-person classes if they, or a relative with whom they live, are immuno-compromised. To ensure degree completion, departments must have a plan/mechanism in place to deliver course content 100 percent remotely or alternately formatted to individual students if it is needed. If you have any questions please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309.298.1884, sdsc@wiu.edu, http://www.wiu.edu/student_services/disability_resources/