

Field Techniques in Ecology & Natural Resources

11:216:274, Spring, 2016

Information Sheet

A. LOCATION, DATES:

1. Camp will be held at the Lindley-Cook 4H Camp in Stokes State Forest (<http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/>) for the week of May 16-May 20, and at the Tuckerton Field Station for the week of May 23-May 27.
2. You should plan to arrive at the 4H Camp **after 3 PM** on Sunday, May 15 in time to get settled and set up camp prior to initial camp meeting at 7 PM. We will leave camp by 5 PM Friday, May 20.
3. Directions to the 4H camp are available from the above website (click on "About Us" and then on "Directions")

B. LEARNING GOALS:

- 1: Create a natural resource management plan demonstrating an understanding of societal values and interests.
- 2: Develop a comprehensive understanding of software, hardware, field and laboratory techniques commonly used in the study of ecology, evolution, and natural resources management.
- 3: Demonstrate the ability to design experiments and interpret numeric and graphical data.
- 4: Think critically and solve problems using evidence-based reasoning.
- 5: Communicate effectively orally and through written text and graphics.

C. PERSONAL GEAR AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

1. **No meals will be served at the course locations.** You will need to bring your own supplies, cooking equipment, dishes, etc. The 4H Camp has a fully equipped kitchen, with sink, stove/oven, refrigerator and microwave oven. There are food stores and restaurants nearby.
2. Adequate field clothing including **raingear**, field boots (**well broken in**), and sneakers.
3. Sleeping bag or bedroll (it can get **cold** at night in Stokes).
4. Towels, soap, toilet paper, shaving supplies, flashlight (with extra batteries), pocket knife.
5. Pen, pencils, notebook, clipboard.
6. A Silva Ranger (or equivalent) compass is recommended. I suggest the *Suunto MC-2 Standard Mirror Compass*. This is available from Ben Meadows Company (www.benmeadows.com). It is listed as item number 213378. The cost is \$45.00, plus shipping and handling.
7. Fieldbook. I recommend a *weather resistant* fieldbook. A good one to get is the *Ben Meadows "Rite in the Rain" Field Flex Bound Notebook* (www.benmeadows.com). It is listed as item number 197273. The cost is \$14.10, plus shipping and handling.
8. Calculator and watch.
9. Laptop computer
10. Suggested: sunscreen, poison ivy lotion, fishing tackle, canteen, camera, insect repellent, sporting equipment, first aid kit.
11. Bee-sting kit (for those allergic to bee stings).

D. DAILY WORK SCHEDULE:

1. In general, the field day will generally run from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM with ½ - 1 hour lunch period (usually in the field).
2. You will be expected to be ready to leave for the field *promptly* at the appointed start time. This means your lunch prepared, personal effects and lodging secured, and necessary equipment obtained. Faculty will be as unforgiving as real-world employers in this regard.
3. Office work during the evenings **will be expected**.

4. This field course is a crucial component of your professional education. The objective is to introduce you to basic field measurements, instrumentation techniques, and operations, and related natural resource management disciplines. This, obviously, is a prerequisite to professionalism in ecology and/or natural resource management. Come prepared to work and learn. You will be expected to complete your field and office assignments *on time*. Late work *will not* be accepted.

E. RULES OF CONDUCT:

1. We will be guests of the 4H Camp, and will respect their property, facilities, and rules of conduct.
2. Rutgers policy prohibits the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on 4H Camp property. Your adherence to this rule is expected; violation will constitute grounds for **immediate dismissal** from camp!!!
3. The bunk room must be kept clean and orderly.
4. You are responsible for your personal gear which is to be kept in the bunk room.
5. All food-stuffs should be kept covered in boxes, cans, etc.
6. You are personally responsible for all equipment and instruments assigned for your use, and it can be *expensive* (\$20 - \$800). You will be charged for equipment lost or broken because of carelessness.

F. GRADING:

Your final grade for the course will be based on your performance on assigned exercises during camp. The weighting system used will be:

- 10% - Attendance at Friday lectures
- 35% - Week 1 assignments
- 10% - Week 1 participation (including attitude and timeliness)
- 35% - Week 2 assignments
- 10% - Week 2 participation (including attitude and timeliness)