

## **URBAN FORESTRY**

Course Number: 11:216:403     Spring 2025

Prerequisites or Co-requisites:

- 11:216:272 Dendrology or permission from instructor

Meeting Days and Times:

- TBD

Meeting Location: TBD

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Instructor: Dr. Allyson Salisbury

Office Location: Old Blake 102

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Office Hours: By appointment for zoom or in-person

## **COURSE WEBSITE, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:**

- The course will be managed on Canvas
- Textbook: *Urban Forestry: Planning and Managing Urban Greenspaces* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. By Miller, Hauer, and Werner.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

As a relatively young disciplinary focus within the realm of forest management, urban forestry is a term of varied definition reflecting professional training history as much as evolving organization and insight by practitioners, policymakers, and academics alike. Generally focused on the management of vegetated spaces in highly developed and populated areas, the term can scale its focus to the specific pairing of trees on local city streets or expand to regional forest management planning for the protection of water resources to supply urban populations. It can be said that forestry is the discipline and urban is a context for management planning. This urban context involves the structures, people and design conventions within the developed landscape which can act independently or in concert for the betterment or decline of the environment in immediate contact with people occupying urban spaces. This course seeks to provide an introduction and overview of Urban Forestry as it plays out in New Jersey, in the United States, and internationally.

## **ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS:**

- Goal 3b: Utilize common urban forestry analysis tools to create a community forestry management plan demonstrating an understanding of societal values and interests as well as the long-term capacity of the urban forest.
- Goal 4: Effectively utilize software, hardware, field, and laboratory techniques commonly used in the study of ecology, evolution, and natural resource management.

- Goal 6: Communicate effectively orally and through written text and graphics.
- Goal 10: Apply a fundamental knowledge of tree biology and professional ethics to tree care management and practice.
- Goal 11: Describe urban forestry relevant laws and policies in New Jersey and at the national level.

**COURSE LEARNING GOALS:**

1. Describe how the discipline and practice of urban forestry is organized within NJ and United States.
2. Develop an understanding of managing trees and other urban vegetation as a plant community, while being called upon to manage public trees on an individual tree level
3. Introduce students to industry Standards and Best Management Practices, their assumptions, and alternatives when assumptions are proven unreliable
4. Develop an understanding of the structures and components within an urban or community forest management plan
5. Develop an understanding of the linkage between species and site for management and performance expectations and planning for provision of environmental services to urban populations
6. Gain a functional understanding and practical exposure to common analysis tools used in industry

**ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES, GRADING & ASSESSMENT:**

Mid-term exam (20% of total grade)

NJ Laws Deep Dive (10%)

Calculating Canopy (5%)

Ecosystem Service Deep Dive (10%)

i-Tree Design Project (5%)

Management Plan (30%)

Final Exam (20%)

**Scoring**

A: 90 and above

B+: 87-89

B: 80-86

C+: 77-79

C: 70-76

D: 60-69

F: 59 and below

## **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources. Please follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/getting-registered>. Full policies and procedures are at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

## **ABSENCE POLICY**

I expect and encourage you to attend all and labs. This course is designed to be highly interactive and by attending class you will learn not just from me, but from your classmates. Plus, we get to learn from you as well. Attending class and lab also give you the opportunity to practice the skills this class is intended to develop in a supervised and collaborative setting. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

The course schedule is posted on Canvas and may be updated periodically.

## **LATE WORK**

All work is due at midnight on Canvas the day it is due, unless otherwise specified. Work turned in after that time will be considered a day late. Late work receives a 10% deduction of the points attainable per day (including weekends and holidays). Therefore, work more than 10 days late will be worth zero points.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at <https://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/current.pdf>. The principles of academic integrity require that a student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others.
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work.
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.

- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress.
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to ensure that

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments.
- all student work is fairly evaluated, and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others.
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered.
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.

Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.

### **DEI STATEMENT**

I intend for students from all backgrounds, identities, and perspectives to feel respected, included and valued in this course and get the most out of it that they possibly can. I believe that diverse perspectives and experiences are a strength and resource and it is my goal to foster a learning environment that reflects those values. I intend for the materials we encounter and activities we do to respect all aspects of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. I am always learning how to be a more effective teacher and I welcome and encourage your suggestions as we move through the semester. You can submit feedback to me directly in-person or via email, or anonymously via Canvas.

### **ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

Rutgers has numerous resources available to help you get the most out of your time here and provide support. A list of relevant resources is posted on Canvas. And if what you're looking for isn't on that list, please talk to me and I'll do my best to connect you the right support.