

Topics in Wildland Fire FW346

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Spring

Instructor: Jack Walstad, Mark Reed

Course objectives:

Wildland fire is center stage in many communities and regions in the western U.S. Issues range from the unwanted destruction of valuable natural resources by uncontrolled wildfires to the important role that fire plays in the natural cycle of forest and rangeland renewal. Interwoven with these issues are increasing dilemmas surrounding fire at the urban and rural interface and the use of prescribed fire as a management tool. The overarching goal of this course is to provide a broad understanding of wildland fire. Key aspects to be examined and integrated include biological, physical, chemical, environmental, and social components.

Course content: This course is an interdisciplinary survey of concepts relating to fire science, ecology, management, and policy. Content will include case studies of several representative ecosystems, ranging from west- and eastside forests of the Pacific Northwest to shrub steppe ecosystems of the Intermountain West and chaparral ecosystems of southern California.

Prerequisite(s): Coursework in forest biology or ecology (e.g. FOR 240, 341) or equivalent.

Text(s): OPTIONAL

Walstad, J.D., S.R. Radosevich, and D.V. Sandberg. 1990. Natural and Prescribed Fire in Pacific Northwest Forests. OSU Press, Corvallis, OR. 317 p.

Term paper(s): Term Project

Testing: Graded quizzes, a final exam and class participation in online discussion forums.

Students for whom the course is intended: For students interested in the effects of fire in natural, rural and urban ecosystems. Crosslisted with Range Ecology and Forestry.