

FOR 427 ♦ Prescribed Burn Lab ♦ Fall 2012
bblearn.uidaho.edu

INSTRUCTORS	OFFICE HOURS
Penny Morgan Phinney B-10 885-7507 pmorgan@uidaho.edu	W 3:30-5:00, and F 1:00-2:30 or by appointment
Heather Heward Phinney B-14 885- hheward@uidaho.edu	To Be Announced
Donovan Birch, teaching assistant CNR 119A birc7015@vandals.uidaho.edu	To Be Announced

Learning Objectives:

In this class you will learn how to plan, conduct, and evaluate prescribed burns to accomplish ecological and natural resource management objectives. Once you have completed this course, you will be able to:

- Collect and analyze data required for planning and evaluating prescribed burns.
- Apply your understanding of fire weather, fuels, and fire behavior to planning for prescribed burning.
- Prepare a fire use plan for a prescribed burn
- Help in conducting prescribed burns to meet specific treatment objectives and quantitatively evaluate the results relative to those objectives the burns
- Identify elements that natural resource managers should consider in developing a prescribed burning program, including the advantages and disadvantages of prescribed burning relative to alternative treatments.

Class Meetings:

This course is accelerated. The classroom sessions will be Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:20 PM in CNR 26 (Geospatial Learning Center). There is no class on Labor Day.

You are required to attend two all-day Saturday class field trips (see [schedule](#)). You must also participate in at least two days of prescribed burning. The burns will be scheduled sometime during the semester depending on fuel and weather conditions. The burns may take place on either week or weekend days, and will probably be conducted during afternoon and evening

hours; typically we depart campus at 11:40 AM or 12:40 PM (but it could be much earlier) and return after dark (but it could be much later). The dates and times for the burns will be announced to you in class and by electronic mail (we will do our best to do so well in advance, but notice may come within just a short time of when we will leave campus). Transportation to and from field trips and prescribed burns will be in University of Idaho vehicles.

Required Equipment and Training:

All of you are required to have and wear when we are in the field boots that are leather, with top at least 6 inches tall, with hard-rubber on-slip lugs or tractor tread soles (e.g. vibram) with leather laces and waxed linen thread. Further, you must all have leather gloves. You should also have a head lamp with fresh batteries, and you need eye protection such as goggles and safety glasses. You will be able to check out the following equipment from the University of Idaho and you will be required to carry it (line gear with fire shelter, hard hat, nomex pants and shirt). You are expected to carry water and food as well as personal first aid kit and other needs including treatment for allergy, asthma or other medical conditions you may have.

Format:

The class sessions will be combinations of lecture and discussion. We expect you to actively participate, drawing upon your experience and fire training, and upon your prior courses in fire ecology and management. This is capstone class for students who are completing the BS in Fire Ecology and Management and we expect you to demonstrate your prior learning into professional presentations, homework assignments and written burn plan.

All assignments should be submitted using bblearn.uidaho.edu. The schedule for the course is also available there. Please be aware that the schedule is subject to change, and the current version will be on bblearn.uidaho.edu.

Unless otherwise specified, all written assignments are expected to follow the writing guide (available on class portion of bblearn.uidaho.edu).

Academic Honesty and Professional Behavior:

[Academic honesty](#) is expected of you at the University of Idaho. Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated in this class. You must summarize, paraphrase, quote and reference sources to avoid plagiarism in your writing, and give credit for sources of photographs and other work in presentations and documents. Under [UI policy](#), regulation O-2, "Consequences for academic dishonesty may be imposed by the course instructor. Such consequences may include but cannot exceed a grade of "F" in the course". If you are accused of plagiarism, you must meet with the course instructor and the chair of the department to discuss the evidence, circumstances, and consequences. If you have indeed plagiarized text, you will receive 0 points on the assignment, you may fail the course and your unethical behavior will affect recommendations for jobs and graduate school. Many of the assignments in this course can be completed as a team -- the instructor will make it clear when we are expecting individual work and when we are expecting team work -- you are responsible for ensuring academic honesty for yourself and your team in all aspects of this class.

We expect you to behave as the professional you wish to be. This includes making every assignment and interaction with others as professional as you can.

Accommodations for disabilities:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may mean that requested accommodations might not be available. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Rm. 333, 885-7200, dss@uidaho.edu.

Grading:

Your final grade will be assigned according to the University of Idaho scale (90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, etc.). You will be able to earn extra credit for participating in more than two burns (25 points), and for providing recommendations for improving the course when it is complete (25 pts, requires written assignment). 10% of your grade on every assignment will be based on organization, clarity of reasoning, grammar, and spelling. Your grade for participation in burns and class field trips will be subjectively assigned based on how the frequently you ask pertinent questions and otherwise contribute substance to our discussions.

Grades are calculated as follows:

Course Activity	Points
Attend and actively, effectively participate on at least two days of prescribed burning with the class, asking questions, making observations, and actively learning (2@100)	200
Attend and actively participate on all-day field trips, asking questions, making observations, and actively learning (2@75 points)	150
Homework (these must include introduction, methods, figures and tables summarizing your quantitative results, with analysis, and discussion; these may be completed individually or by a team of 2-3 students) (7@75)	525
Peer Evaluation of Prescribed Burn Plan presentations (constructive, specific feedback given to others)	50
Final Exam (take home)	150
Fire Use Plan (75 points for presentation and response to questions, 350 for written plan)	425
TOTAL	1500