Introduction to Agroforestry
FOR595Y – Fall 2004

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Class: Mondays 12:25 – 3:15 pm, 2024 Biltmore Hall

FOR595Y is a special topics mini-course. Special topics courses exist so that “groups of students, under direction of a faculty member, may explore topics of special interest not covered by existing courses”, and FOR mini-courses have “been devised to offer overviews of several subject areas relevant to forestry.” Thus, we will have five weeks together to gain a basic understanding of the many practices encompassed by the interdisciplinary field of agroforestry. Students are expected to take active roles in the course, e.g. finding and reading appropriate literature, presenting case studies, leading and participating in discussions.

Week 1, 23 August:
- Lecture providing a comprehensive view of agroforestry (definitions, classifications, examples)
- Distribution of USDA National Agroforestry Center “Agroforestry Notes”
- Assignment of case study papers

Week 2, 30 August:
- Student presentation of case studies
- Each student will make a 15-min oral report presenting a case study of an agroforestry system or practice, followed by five min for discussion. The report will be based on one central manuscript, will draw from additional sources relevant to the subject, and will minimally include:
  - Full citation
  - Complete description of the practice/system
  - Explanation of its positive and negative features
  - Description of successes/failures in its implementation
  - Speculation as to its future promise (or lack thereof)
- A short written summary is to be submitted for distribution to the class, including at least one literature citation relevant to the case study and not provided in course materials

Week 3, 13 September:
Lecture and discussion regarding tree-crop interactions within agroforestry systems

Week 4, 20 September:
- Farm visit (Efland NC) to see early implementation stages of agroforestry practices
- Based on the visit, each student will write a brief paper summarizing the various agroforestry practices seen and the pros and cons of each. What could be done differently or added to the system?

Week 5, 27 September: Examination

Class grade will be derived equally from class participation, case study oral presentation, farm visit report, and exam grade.
References
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Definitions of Agroforestry

Definition and history of agroforestry

Agroforestry concepts (intensive, intentional, integrated, interactive), practices in USA, benefits

General description of arrangements and benefits of MPTs in agroforestry

Classifying agroforestry practices and systems

Development of agroforestry in USA

Description of agroforestry systems in North America


