FRST 270: Community Forests and Community Forestry  
Faculty of Forestry, UBC  
Winter 2014 Term 1  
Course Syllabus

3 credit hours, MWF 1400-1500 hours  
**Room 214, MacLeod, 2356 Main Mall**

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Mondays and Wednesdays: 1500-1700 hours

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Tuesdays and Fridays: 1400-1600 hours

**Course Description**
An introduction to the history and evolution of community forestry globally. Students will analyze forms of tenure, governance and power structures in a range of case studies, and the implications of these processes for the relative success or failure of specific examples of community forestry. Students will consider examples of co-management with different actors for a range of outcomes. Students will also explore the linkages between community forestry and national and international networks. We will review the current environmental politics of land use, examining issues such as common pool resources, customary law, and indigenous environmental knowledge in relation to traditional natural resource management and community forestry.

Students will gain understanding and appreciation of the local-to-international, and vice-versa, driving forces for resource management, and ecological change in community forestry. We will consider how evolution in national and international environmental politics shapes the ways in which indigenous and forest-dependent people(s) present themselves to the dominant cultures, and how such re-envisioning in turn contributes to political evolution.

The aim is to stimulate creative thinking about the construction and uses of community forestry to local communities and their forests, and to the range of governmental and non-governmental institutions with which they interact. This course will enable students to evaluate the constraints faced by indigenous and forest-dependent communities, and the challenges and opportunities opened for them by (re)engagement in community forestry.

**Pre-requisites**
No formal pre-requisites for taking this course.

**Learning Objectives**
1. Students will be able to describe and analyze examples of community forestry arrangements from around the world, as well as the historical context of their emergence.

2. Students will be able to evaluate distinct tenure/property arrangements, and levels of community participation and types of powers devolved to local forest users in community forestry.

3. Students will be able to identify challenges and opportunities faced by communities in managing local forests and maintaining and growing small forest-related enterprises, and strategies to overcome the challenges.

4. Students will understand how to apply their knowledge of institutions (rules and regulations) to a variety of case studies. The required analytical paper will allow the student to grapple in more depth with a self-chosen topic and to integrate the taught skills by explaining how the student would deal with the problem(s) in the topic.

Course format:
The course will use a combination of interactive lectures, and blended learning through structured blog postings on UBC Connect.

Textbooks


All other readings can be accessed through the ‘Library’ tab on the course’s Connect site.

Many of the examples of community forestry in the following book, available as an e-book, can be further explored in your term paper:

Grading and Evaluation
Course evaluation will be based on five primary components:

1. A written question or comment on Connect related to the week’s lectures or readings on each of the nine dates specified in the syllabus. Each post submitted by deadline will be assigned half a point. Participation in each of the discussion sessions on the days following the posts will be assigned half a point. One additional point will be awarded to all those who achieve at least 75 per cent in both blog postings and class participation.

2. A one-page Commentary, based on the assigned readings on a date of your choice. In the commentary, you will summarize some key points of the readings. You can also offer comments, raise questions, suggest further lines of enquiry, etc., with the aim of stimulating class discussion. Commentaries must be posted to UBC Connect 24 hours in
advance of the class session. All students will be encouraged to participate in the discussions, online and in class.

3. Mid-term examination, with short-essay questions.

4. An analytical paper (approximately 10 pages double spaced) applying concepts learned in class to evaluate a specific to evaluate a community forestry case study or the practice of community forestry in a named country. The paper will be written in three stages. Preliminary ideas should be discussed with the instructor during office hours by the end of the fourth week of the term. The structure of the paper and an annotated literature review will be submitted by 1 November. The final paper is due on 15 November. Guidelines on format will be distributed.

5. Final examination, with short-essay questions.

**Grade breakdown**

- 10% Class participation – blog postings (5%), class participation (5%)
- 5% Written commentary and class presentation
- 20% Mid-term examination
- 5% Draft Abstract and structure for term paper
- 5% Annotated literature review for term paper
- 5% Oral presentation on term paper
- 25% Term paper
- 25% Final examination

**Week by week – Summary**

- Week 1 – Introduction to community forestry
- Week 2 – Building blocks for research on community forestry
- Week 3 – Introduction to common property
- Week 4 – Networks, intermediary and representative organizations
- Week 5 – The ejidos of Mexico
- Week 6 – Community forestry in Western Europe
- Week 7 – Power, equity and rights
- Week 8 – Joint Forest Management in India
- Week 9 – Community forestry in Canada
- Week 10 – Governance issues in community forestry
- Week 11 – Rhetoric and reality
- Week 12 – Community forestry and forest certification
- Week 13 – Student presentations and Wrap-up

**Week 1 – Introduction to community forestry**

**Wednesday September 3**

- **Introductory class**
  Introductions and syllabus review

**Friday September 5**

- **Introduction to community forestry**
Week 2 – Building blocks for research on community forestry

Monday September 8
► Guest lecture: ‘Searching the scholarly literature’ - Sally Taylor, Reference Librarian
Fisheries, Forestry, IRES, and graduate programs in Botany, Microbiology & Immunology, Zoology, Woodward Library, University of British Columbia.

Wednesday, September 10
► Guest lecture: ‘Understanding informal management mechanisms in the cultural landscapes of community forests’ - Dr Maria Isabel du Monceau, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, UBC

OR

Friday, September 12
► Guest lecture: “Seeing the forest for the trees (and people, and institutions): How do we understand the complexity of community forestry?” - Dr Rachelle Gould, Post-doctoral Scholar Stanford University | Social Ecology Research Group

Week 3 - Introduction to common property

Monday September 15

Wednesday, September 17
► Case study: NTFP harvesting in Yunnan Province, China

The following questions are intended to help guide your reading:
1. What factors sustain social cohesion in Naidu Village?
2. What are the risks in the concentration on a valuable non-timber forest product?

Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect

Friday, September 19
► Guest lecture: Garry Merkel, Tahltan Nation Development Corporation, British Columbia

Week 4 – Networks, intermediary and representative organizations

Monday September 22

**Wednesday, September 24**

**Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect**

**Friday, September 26**
► Review and discussion session

**The following questions are intended to help guide your reading:**
1. What features distinguish customary law from statutory/common law?
2. How does a formal legal system of elected local government compare with decision-making in (a) hierarchical; and (b) egalitarian societies?

**Week 5 – The ejidos of Mexico**

**Monday, September 29**
► Introduction


**Wednesday, October 1**
**Resource theft in community forestry logging**


**Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect**

**Friday, October 3**
► Review and discussion session

**Week 6 - Community forestry in Western Europe**

**Monday, October 6**
Wednesday, October 8

► **Guest lecture:** ‘Family forests in Finland’ - Jorma Neuvonen, Director, Special Projects, Faculty of Forestry, UBC


*Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect*

Friday, October 10

► Review and discussion session

**Due:** One paragraph on the proposed topic of your term paper

Week 7 - Power, equity and rights

Monday, October 13

► Thanksgiving - holiday

Wednesday, October 15

Review session

Friday, October 17

**Mid-term examination**

Week 8 - Community forestry in British Columbia, Canada

Monday, October 20


*Tuesday: post a question for our guest lecturers arising from reading or lecture on Connect*

Wednesday, October 22

► **Guest lectures:** Susan Mulkey, Manger, Communication and Extension, B.C. Community Forest Association and Ken Day, Manager, UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest

Friday, October 24


*Week 9 – Governance issues in community forestry*

Monday, October 27

Review of mid-term examination

Wednesday, October 29

**Reading:** Ribot, Jesse. 2009. ‘Authority over forests: empowerment and subordination in Senegal’s democratic decentralization,’ *Development and Change* 40(1): 105-29.

*Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect*
Friday, October 31
Film: Weex Dunx and the Quota: the plucking of local democracy in Senegal.

Due: Abstract, structure and annotated literature review for term paper

Week 10 - Joint Forest Management in India

Monday, November 3

Wednesday, November 5

Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect

Friday, November 7
► Film on Joint Forest Management in West Bengal

Week 11 – Rhetoric vs reality
Monday, November 10

Wednesday, November 12

Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect

Friday, November 14
Review and discussion session

Week 12 - Community forestry and forest certification
Monday, November 17

FRST 270: Community Forestry
Review

Wednesday, November 19

Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect

Friday, November 21
Review and discussion session
► Term paper due

Week 13 - Wrap-up
Monday, November 24

Wednesday, November 26
► Presentations and discussions of student papers

Thursday: post a question or comment arising from readings or lectures on Connect

Friday, November 28
► Wrap-up: how well do the case studies and other readings support our initial list of global requisites for successful and sustainable community forestry? What factors may be situation-specific rather than global? What other requisites should be added?

► Presentations and discussions of student papers