



Leadership Skills

Course Outline

Module 5.1: Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences regarding forest resource issues

Standard 5 - Leadership Skills: Communication and Critical Reasoning
Demonstrable Competency: 1) Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences regarding forest resource issues

Course Description

Module 5.1 will enhance students' leadership skills through learning activities that focus on communication skills. The aim is for students to learn approaches to analyze and communicate solutions to complex resource issues clearly so to be able to advise a wide spectrum of stakeholders, senior managers, and clients of all types. Key topics include professional and technical report writing and making effective presentations.

Specific objectives are to enable participants to: Demonstrate an ability to communicate resource information to a diverse range of audiences; Demonstrate a range of effective listening skills; Use formal reports to present data, information, and opinions, and Prepare and deliver a presentation that incorporates concepts and terminology of natural resources

Course Schedule

This course involves a combination of recorded lectures, readings, assignments and participation in semi-synchronous online discussion forums and synchronous tutorials with instructors and other participants over an **8-week period**:

- **Week 1**
 - **Introductory lecture**
 - "Introduction to the Module"
 - **Core lecture**
 - "Indigenous perspectives and traditional knowledge – ways of "misknowing", myths surrounding traditional environmental knowledge, naturalized knowledge, concepts of time, our constitution and society"
 - **Core readings**

- Chapter 24 - Building bridges across agency boundaries 1997. Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century: The Science of Ecosystem Management. Edited by K.A. Kohm and J.F. Franklin. Island Press, Washington, D.C., 475 p.
- **Week 2**
 - **Core lectures**
 - “Ontario’s Far North – Part 1 historic forest cover, forest cover today, boreal forest, fragmentation, human footprint, forest loss to fire, peatlands, watersheds, human impacts, conservation challenges, wildlife, historical human impacts and legacies, land claims, First Nations treaties; Part 2 Boreal forest conservation, economic context, development (mineral resource potential, exploration e.g. Ring of Fire, water power potential), Climate change, recent legislation, Land use Decisions Policy Framework, community-based land use planning
 - “Writing data papers – basic order, know your audience, titles (good & bad), Introduction section, Methods section, presenting complex statistics, Results section, Discussion, Acknowledgments, Literature cited, tables, figures, error bars, figure legends”
 - **Online discussion forum**
 - **Introduction to assignment #1**
 - Prepare an oral presentation on the benefits of FSC forest certification for 2 different audiences: Forest industry (part 1) and the Environmental NGO community (part 2).
- **Week 3**
 - **Online tutorial with instructor**
 - Students to present assignment 1 - part 1
- **Week 4**
 - **Online discussion Forum**
 - Continue to work on Assignment 1 - part 2
- **Week 5**
 - **Online tutorial with instructor**
 - Students to present assignment 1 - part 2
 - **Introduction to assignment #2**
 - Describe and discuss the emergence of third-party forest certification programs in Canada, with particular attention to both the FSC certification and SFI certification systems. Include in your discussion data on the area presently under both certification systems in Canada, a brief comparison of strengths and weaknesses of these two certification systems, and comment on how both are perceived by forest industry and the environmental NGO community at large.

- **Week 6**
 - **Submit proposal for final paper**
- **Week 7-8**
 - **Continue to work on Assignment #2**
 - **Assignment #2 due end of week 8 (submit online)**

Grading

- Discussion forum posts: 10%
- Participation in tutorials: 10%
- Assignment 1 - student presentations: 30% (each presentation worth 15%)
- Final paper proposal: 5%
- Assignment 2 - final paper: 45%



Bridge Training Program for Foresters

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