



# Graduate Student News

Preregistration for Spring 2007

October 17 – 24, 2006



## Web Course Request Preregistration

1. Use the on-line timetable.
2. Access Hokie SPA from Virginia Tech's homepage and follow instructions for "course request."
3. Complete course request before midnight October 24.
4. You can view and modify your schedule when drop/add period opens on November 27th.

**CAUTION:** Registration on-line **IS NOT LIVE**. Your course request will NOT tell you if you received the course or have created a conflict, so make sure to check your schedule when the drop/add period opens on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL CHANGES IN POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**WG Designation:** Just in case you hadn't heard, effective spring 2006, the University Council and the Board of Visitors, on recommendation of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, approved a resolution establishing a separate course withdrawal policy for graduate students. Please refer to Policy Memorandum No. 238 to review the complete policy. An excerpt is below:

**“Withdrawals from courses after the drop period are identified as Graduate Withdrawal.** These carry a **WG designation** on the transcript and do not affect the GPA. This process requires the use of the **Graduate Course Withdrawal Form\***, which must be signed by the student, the instructor, and the student's advisor or departmental graduate coordinator. WG must have a graduate dean's approval. **Withdrawal from courses after the semester is over is not permitted.**”

\*The Force Add/Drop form is being used temporarily until this new form is available.

## **An “I” No Longer Converts to an “F” for**

**Graduate Students:** An incomplete (“I”) may be given when the requirements of a course have not been completed because of illness or extenuating circumstances. In the past, grades of “I” converted to “F” after one year. However, in January 2006, Dean DePauw announced that grades of “I” will remain on the transcript until they are replaced with a letter grade when the student has completed course requirements. A student may not graduate with an “I” in a course on the Plan of Study. Grades of “I” that remain on the transcript may indicate failure to make satisfactory academic progress and may affect eligibility for assistantships and continuation in a degree program. **Look for a new CNR policy on incompletes in the near future.**

## **SPECIAL STUDY OFFERINGS**

### **FIW 5984, Visual Basic.NET Programming in Natural Resources, CRN: 16803** **2 credits**

**Course Description:** Programming is more than just understanding the syntax of a computer language. It requires a specific definition of the problem, formulation of a logical solution to the problem, and implementing the solution in small, logical steps. These skills are best learned by doing hands-on programming of real-world problems and scenarios. This course will consist of classes that combine lecture and hands-on programming. Each class will begin with a lecture to introduce new skills that build upon skills from previous lectures, providing examples from natural resources fields. The remainder of class time will be used as a lab to work on class exercises and to begin the homework assignment.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Lecture Day and Time:** Weeks 1-8 only.  
T, TH: 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., 133 JCH

**Instructor:** Michelle Davis, Research Associate, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, 349 Latham Hall, 231-1424, [midavis1@vt.edu](mailto:midavis1@vt.edu)



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## FIW 5984, Advanced Fisheries Management, CRN: 16804, 4 credits

**Course Description:** This course involves advanced exploration of modern fisheries management problems, in a case-study learning format. Emphasis is on critical evaluation of recent literature pertaining to global issues in fisheries management. This course is intended for graduate students without an extensive background in fisheries science.

**Prerequisites:** This course assumes that students are proficient with technical writing, public speaking, microcomputer use, and statistics.

### **Lecture Day and Time:**

Lecture: T, TH 2:00 – 3:15 p.m., 213 JCH  
Discussion: T 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., 213 JCH

**Instructor:** Brian R. Murphy, Professor of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, 442 Latham Hall, 231-6959, [murphybr@vt.edu](mailto:murphybr@vt.edu)

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

Do you plan to **audit** a course this spring? Great. However, make sure that your instructor records a grade for you at the end of the semester. Yes, a grade! Your instructor will need to record an “**AUD**” in the grade column, otherwise you will receive an **NR**, which means **Not Reported**. Also remember to discuss with the instructor what he or she expects from you when you audit their class. This early communication between student and instructor will eliminate any surprises later in the semester.

## FOR 5984, Applied Social Science Research Methods in Natural Resources Recreation, CRN: 16805, 3 credits

**Course Description:** Students taking this course will learn design, implementation, analysis, interpretation, and limitations of social science research methods applied to natural resources recreation management and planning issues. The focus will be on normative recreation research, choice modeling, unobtrusive observation of visitor behavior, and computer simulation of visitor behavior.

**Prerequisites:** None.

### **Lecture Day and Time:**

The class will meet for 3 hours each week. Time and location of class to be determined.

**Instructor:** Steven R. Lawson, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Recreation, Department of Forestry, 307A Cheatham Hall, 231-8303, [lawsons@vt.edu](mailto:lawsons@vt.edu)

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

Audited courses **cannot** be used on your Plan of Study. Therefore, when registering for classes, **don't count** an audited course when determining the number of credit hours needed to be considered a full-time student. For example, if you need 12 credit hours to be full-time, and you plan to audit a 3-credit course next spring, then the total number of hours you should end up registering for is 15 (remember, those 3 credits associated with the audited course don't count). Do you need additional hours added for fall semester because you are registered for an audited course? Please see Arlice in 324 Cheatham Hall.



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## STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY FOR SUMMER II

**NR 5954, Study Abroad, “Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment,” CRN: 14373, 6 credits for Australia, 3 credits for Fiji**

**Description:** Six credit hours are available for 24 days in Australia (June 20 – July 15). Field study occurs in far northeast Queensland, specifically in the Daintree Wet Tropics Area and the Great Barrier Reef; both World Heritage listed ecosystems. Excursions for fieldwork in the “near” outback and within communities of Aboriginal Peoples are also incorporated in the course of study. The course is a blend of ecology and anthropology, and is registered for as a SUMMER II course offered from Virginia Tech.

Three credit hours are available for 8 days in Fiji (July 15 – 22). This program may be added to the Australian program immediately after the Australian program. The Fiji add-on is intended for direct registration through Virginia Tech.

**Contacts:** Questions can be referred to Steve Duke, Office of International Research, Education, and Development, 231-8205, [stduke@vt.edu](mailto:stduke@vt.edu); Tom Hammett, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, 231-2716, [himal@vt.edu](mailto:himal@vt.edu); or Bob Wright, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, 231-8838, [rswright@vt.edu](mailto:rswright@vt.edu).

## DUAL-LEVEL COURSE (UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE\*)

**ALS 4614, CRN 10278; NR 4614, CRN TBD Watershed Assessment, Management, and Policy, 2 credits**

**\*Approved for Graduate Credit**

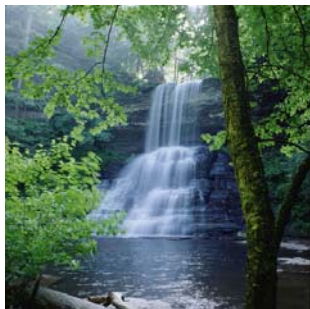
**Course Description:** This is an undergraduate course that has been approved for graduate credit. In addition to the requirements specified for undergraduates, graduate students will have an additional project/report to complete.

The course offers an interdisciplinary approach that integrates technological advances and socio-economic factors for watershed management. It aims to discuss and identify practical solutions to water pollution damages within watershed ecosystems. Students will participate in weekly seminar discussions, participate in the team project, and take a field trip to a local watershed to observe watershed management/restoration options. The course will be graded A/F with grades based on class participation and the team project report.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Lecture Day and Time:**  
TH, 3:30-5:25 p.m.

**Instructor:** Tamin Younos, Research Professor of Water Resources, Water Resources Research Center, 210F Cheatham Hall, 231-8039, [tyounos@vt.edu](mailto:tyounos@vt.edu)



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## GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

The mission of the Graduate Student Assembly is:

- To represent the interests of graduate students in all University activities and to facilitate the exchange of information between the University governance structure and graduate students;
- To solidify, codify, and promote graduate student opinions and concerns and to develop and recommend policies concerning graduate students to the University governance system;
- To work with the administration of the Virginia Tech's Graduate School and other appropriate commissions and committees to improve the quality of graduate educational programs, graduate research activity, and graduate teaching programs; and
- To work within the University governance structure to improve graduate student life and social programs.

### So, who are my GSA delegates?

**FIW:** Thomas Gorman, Sarah DuRant

**FOR:** Brad Miller, Lauren Stull

**WSFP:** Brian Perkins, Tim Steiss

Check out the GSA's website at <http://gsa.uusa.vt.edu/> to learn more about:

- The Travel Fund Program (TFP)
- *Apex*, the GSA's newsletter on current events
- GSA-L Listserv Electronic Mailing List
- Socials, etc.

Note: The next meeting of the GSA is scheduled for **Thursday, November 2, 2006**, at 5:30 p.m., at the Graduate Life Center, in the Multipurpose Room. Free food and beverages will be provided.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE GRADUATE LIFE CENTER?



### GLC Speaker Series

#### October 20

Dr. Fred D'Aguiar - English  
The Poet in the Academy

#### October 27

Dr. Paulo Polanah - African Studies  
Producing Futures; Eliding Past

#### November 3

Dr. Marty Johnson - Acoustical Engineering  
Don't believe what you hear...An introduction to Acoustics

#### November 10

Nick Wigginton - Geoscience  
Nan-bio-geo-what? How Many More Prefixes do we  
Need to Solve One Scientific Problem?

#### December 1

Bingbing Li - Chemistry  
A Dance of Molecules on Water Surface