

FRST 201 Take-home Midterm Exam

Due at 1pm, Monday, October 28, 2019

Instructions:

All exams must be submitted electronically in either Word (*.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (*.pdf) format, unless a student needs to make a different arrangement. The files should be named as follows: yourfirstandlastname.FRST201midterm. Exams are due by 1:00p.m. on Oct 28. You can submit it through turnitin.com or email it to me.

Answer all of the following three questions. Each answer shall be no more than one page long using 12 pt New Times Roman font, single line spacing. (Maximum of three pages for the whole exam).

You do not need detailed references since the readings are known to the instructor, nor do you need to cite outside sources.

Questions:

1. Explain why retention of a partial canopy of trees (e.g., mother trees) during timber harvesting rather than clearcutting, and planting the area with a mixture of species rather than a monoculture, may reduce the time for above and belowground carbon storage (net ecosystem production) to recover.
2. Explain why and how fire severity can vary across a temperate forest landscape, and how and why this could affect forest successional patterns.
3. Explain the hydrologic cycle in a watershed and what effect an impermeable surface has on groundwater.

Grading Rubric:

Attached is the grading rubric for this exam. The rubric should give you a clear idea of what is desired in answers.

Grading Rubric for each question:

Level of achievement	Criteria
(70%) Quality of analysis	
Outstanding (90-100)	An excellent understanding of the relevant issue is demonstrated. Very good critical thinking and/or analysis skills are evident. All parts of the question are answered. In addition, the argument contains originality and demonstrates an understanding of ecological mechanisms.
Excellent (80-89)	An excellent understanding of the relevant issue is demonstrated. Very good critical thinking and/or analysis skills are evident. All parts of the question are answered.
Good (68-79)	A good understanding of the relevant issue is demonstrated. Some critical thinking and/or analysis skills are evident. One of the parts of the question remains unanswered.
Fair (55-67)	A marginal understanding of the relevant issue is demonstrated. Evidence of critical thinking and/or analysis skills is minimal. More than one part of the question remains unanswered.
Unacceptable (54 and lower)	A very poor understanding of the relevant issue is demonstrated. There is very little or no evidence of critical thinking and/or analysis skills.
(10%) Logical Development	
Outstanding (90-100)	The content and flow of the argument is extremely clear from the beginning to the end of each section of the answer.
Excellent (80-89)	Addresses the topics in an orderly manner. Each paragraph has one major idea. All main ideas are supported by well-explained evidence. Connections between paragraphs are clear. There is an introductory and concluding paragraph.
Good (68-79)	One of the elements of logical development is poorly done: absent introductory and concluding paragraphs, or a poorly organized paragraph, or a transition that is sudden.
Fair (55-67)	Two of the elements of logical development are poorly done, such as many poorly organized paragraphs in addition to absent introductory and concluding paragraphs, many sudden changes of topic.
Unacceptable (54 and less)	Organization unclear; paragraph structure poor; transitions poor; the essay is hard to follow.
(10%) Mechanical Style	
Outstanding (90-100)	The paper can be read quickly, with no pauses to puzzle out the meaning at any point.
Excellent (80-89)	Uses appropriate vocabulary. Language is clear and concise. A little awkward.
Good (68-79)	Some sentences are too long, others have passive voice when active voice would work, or another element of style is weak.
Fair (55-67)	Contains some inappropriate use of the features of this category, such as too many words, addressing a vague audience, and misused words.
Unacceptable (54 and less)	Answer is obscure.

(10%) Grammar	
Outstanding (90-100)	Absolutely no errors in grammar.
Excellent (80-89)	Consistently correct subject/verb agreement. Correct sentence structure, consistency in person, tense, and number, and clear pronoun references. Spelling is correct.
Good (68-79)	A few errors in grammar
Fair (55-67)	Many errors in grammar.
Unacceptable (54 and less)	The paper has grammatical problems that make meaning difficult to decipher