**FOREST MODELS – teaching methods and course grading**

**Teaching methods:**

The course is a combination of several teaching methods such as lectures, discussion-based learning, analysis of solved problems, problems solved by students, case-studies developed by the students (alone or in group). The students will have access to the study material before the lectures and those will be based on discussion and not just on the presentation of the different topics.

**Course grading:**

Students will be evaluated along the course through homeworks that may use several methods: answering a question (detailed answer, not just topics), resolution of an exercise, development of a case study or project, or combinations of some of these evaluation methods. The instructions for the homeworks will be provided to the students in a Friday and will have to be sent to the teachers by email on the following Sunday till mid-night.

The homeworks will be 9:

HW1 – Chapter 1 – Introduction to forest models and simulators

HW2 – Chapter 2 – Data for construction and validation of forest models

HW3 – Chapter 3 – Allometric relationships and growth functions – and Chapter 4 – Site productivity

HW4 – Chapter 5 & 6 – FCTOOLS, sIMfLOR and the standsSIM simulator

HW5 – Chapter 7 – Individual tree models PINASTER and PINEA models

HW6 – Chapter 7 – SUBER model

HW7 – Chapter 8 – Management oriented process-based models: the 3PG model

HW8 – Chapter 10 – Model evaluation

HW9 – Chapter 11 – Statistics applied to the development of forest models

Each student must deliver 7 homeworks, being HW1 and HW9 compulsory.

In the last class there is a debate session for defence (if classification > 16) or improvement of the classification.

Alternatively, students can be assessed in a final exam.