

ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NRM 3303:W01
Web Delivered Course
Fall 2015

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tue & Thu 10-12, or by email, phone, or appointment

Learning Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the science of natural resource management. At the end of this course you will be able to understand and explain the history, science, and policy approaches to natural resource management and apply that knowledge to solving problems regarding the use of rangeland, wildlife, soil and water resources within a social context. By the completion of the course you should be able to identify and understand key natural resource management issues and integrate ecological, economic, and policy management criteria in an applied framework. Students will use reading assignments, problem solving skills, and critical thinking to analyze, interpret and discuss these natural resource issues in persuasive essays and short responses. This course will contribute to mastering program learning outcomes (PLOs) for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management in which a graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to: 1) identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history, 2) demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem, 3) communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing, 4) conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting, and 5) apply knowledge about elements of an ecosystem into an appropriate conservation management plan.

Course Material:

This is a web-delivered course. Your grade will be based upon three components: 1) a PowerPoint presentation, 2) a term paper, and 3) weekly reading assignments with concise essays and responses to questions (these weekly assignments will average 10 points apiece). Each of the three components is worth 100 points, for a grand total of 300 points. Assignments are found under "Assignments," with the majority of material based on readings from the textbook. Additional readings will also be assigned and available through online links on Blackboard. The PowerPoint and term paper criteria and assessment procedure will be posted in Blackboard under "Course Documents." All assignments will be submitted via the assignment component of Blackboard, unless otherwise instructed. The PowerPoint and term paper deadlines are listed below under "Grades." Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable and will be handled accordingly. I will utilize the online plagiarism software SafeAssign within Blackboard.

Grading:

Grading will basically reward two things: the **quality** and **timeliness** of your responses and assignments. You should utilize good writing practices (use spell-check, concise writing, proper grammar and syntax) and directly address questions posed. Effective communication is probably one of the most important tools you will take into the workforce, and I place a premium on your ability to communicate clearly and effectively on your assignments. Regular participation is an essential part of this online course and I expect that you will log on to the course at least twice every seven days. Any announcements of reminders will be placed under "Announcements", please check regularly to see if new information is available. You must read all of the assignments and assigned material. Late assignments will only be accepted under extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor. If an assignment is accepted late, a point penalty will be assessed, again at instructor discretion. All grades will be posted in the Blackboard Grade Center.

Communication:

All communications via email will be conducted through your **Sul Ross State University email address**. Please do not request that other email addresses be used. Because of spam filters it is likely that if you send email from another address (e.g. yahoo.com, hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.) it will be filtered as junk mail and I will not receive it. I intend to generally conduct class business during my posted office hours – that will be the time period in which I will normally respond to questions and emails.

“Sign” your name in emails. It is difficult to identify you by the email address alone. Common courtesy dictates that you conduct your academic correspondence like you would business correspondence. Assignments and attached files should be titled: First initial + last name + assignment name (for example: J Smith assignment 1.doc). I will accept Word document files, or Excel, and PowerPoint as the exercise dictates. Please contact me in advance if you desire to submit other file formats so we can insure compatibility.

Miscellaneous Notes:

This syllabus is your guidebook and contract for the course. I plan to adhere to the syllabus; however, on occasion events occur in which it is advantageous to you to make adjustments. As an example, it may become apparent that there is a reason to adjust the date that the term paper is due. If something like this occurs, I will give you advanced notification of such a change. If you find that despite your best efforts you are unable to submit an assignment, or have some other challenges with the course, notify me as soon as you can. I may be able to help you resolve the problem, and at the least, I know you are conscientious enough to keep me informed. I will grade assignments as quickly as I can. I will also respond to your questions as quickly as I can. However, sometimes unforeseen circumstances will have me out of email contact. Be patient, and I will respond to you as soon as I can.

Textbook (required):

Natural Resources: Ecology, Economics, and Policy. 2003, second edition. By Jerry Holechek, Richard Cole, James Fisher, and Raul Valdez. Prentice Hall. Available at the

SRSU Bookstore and via online retailers

Additional reading:

Leopold, Aldo, 1949. *A Sand County Almanac – The Land Ethic* (the recommend chapter is scanned and available under "Course Documents")

MacCleery, Doug, 1999. *Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic: Is it Only Half a Loaf Unless a Consumption Ethic Accompanies It? or Is the Shift to "Ecological Sustainability" on U.S. Public Lands Merely a Sophisticated "NIMBYism" Masquerading as a "Paradigm Shift?"*

" <http://homepages.caverock.net.nz/~bj/beeceh/sustainable/paper9.htm>

Grades:

Weekly assignments	100 points
Midterm PowerPoint	100 points
Term paper	100 points

Total	300 points (possible)
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Final grade assignment: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 =F.

Topic for Power Point and Term Paper :

Topic due – Friday, September 11th

Power Point Schedule:

Presentation due – Friday, October 16th

Term Paper Schedule:

Paper due – Friday, Dec 4th

Assignments due weekly, as noted (see assignments for dates).

Course Topical Outline

I. Course Introduction – Meet the instructor, review syllabus, submit student introduction via class assignment to instructor.

II. Overview – Basic natural resource concepts and terms
(Chapter 1) Assignment 1.

III. Management Foundations

- A. Historical Perspective (Chapter 2) Assignment 2.
- B. The Land Ethic (Assigned reading) Assignment 3.
- C. Basic Ecology (Chapter 3) Assignment 4.
- D. Conservation Economics (Chapter 4), and Planning, Policy, & Administration (Chapter 5) Assignment 5.

IV. Air, Water, and Land Resources

- A. Atmospheric Resources and Climate (Chapter 6) Assignment 6
- B. Water Resources (Chapter 7) Assignment 7.
- C. Soil Resources (Chapter 8) Assignment 8.
- D. United States Ecosystems (Chapter 9) Assignment 9.

V. The Land-Based and Renewable Wild Living Resources

- A. Rangeland and Range Management (Chapter 11) Assignment 10.
- B. Wildlife Conservation and Management (Chapter 15) Assignment 11.
- C. Biodiversity and Endangered Species Management (Chapter 17) Assignment 12.

Topic for Power Point and Term Paper due (September 11th)

PowerPoint due (October 16th)

Term Paper due (December 4th)

All assignments due weekly as noted