

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

NRM 5303: W02

Web Delivered Course

Fall 2015

Instructor:

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Office Hours: M – Th 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 M.Ag. and M.S. non-thesis degrees in Range and Wildlife Management in which a graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to: 1) apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data, 2) evaluate literature and references to substantiate an applied research project, 3) demonstrate their knowledge of and mastery of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

Course Material:

This is a web-delivered course. Your grade will be based upon three components: 1) two one-hour essay/short answer exams, 2) one term paper, and 3) weekly reading assignments with concise essays and responses to questions. Exams will be timed. For each exam a study guide of review questions will be posted in Blackboard under “Course Documents.” Each exam will consist of questions derived from this study guide. Assignments will be posted on a weekly basis with the majority of material based on readings from the textbook. Additional readings will also be assigned and available through online links on Blackboard. On occasion, some terms or questions in the exam study guide will not be covered in the assigned reading. In those cases it is up to you to independently research the term or question. Normally, assignments will be posted on a Monday and you will have one week to respond to the assignment (e.g. it will be due by 5:00 p.m. Alpine, Texas (Central) time the following Monday). The term paper criteria and assessment procedure are posted in Blackboard under “Course Documents.” All assignments will be submitted via the assignment component of Blackboard, unless otherwise instructed. All expected test dates and term paper deadlines are listed below under “Grades.” All dates and times will be based on local time in Alpine, Texas. 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. 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 and the volume of email I receive 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 do not review all email on a daily basis. 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. You are free to send email at any time, but please keep in mind that I will most likely respond during the work week office hour periods.

All email should include the following in the subject line: First initial + last name + brief description of subject (for example: R Kinucan –question for assignment 2). **“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 similarly be titled: First initial + last name + assignment name (for example: R Kinucan 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. If you fail to include an appropriate subject line, your email may be accidentally purged with junk mail.

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. One last note – my job as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences keeps me in many meetings and requires significant travel. It is not uncommon that I don't have daily access to the internet. I will grade assignments as quickly as I can. I will also respond to your questions as quickly as I can. However, there will be some times during the semester that I will not be able to respond to you for several days. Be patient, and I will respond to you as soon as I possible.

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*

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:

2 one-hour exams @ 100 points ea. 200 points

Weekly assignments 100

Term paper 100

Total 400 points (possible)

Final grade assignment: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 =F.

Tentative Exam Schedule:

Exam 1 - Thursday, October 15

Exam 2 - Friday, December 4

Term Paper Schedule:

Submit topic for approval – Thursday, October 1 (submit via email to instructor)

Title & Outline due – Wednesday, October 21 (submit via email to instructor)

Paper due – Thursday, November 12 (submit through SafeAssign)

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
- E. 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.