

**NRM 5303 (NRM 5322) – Sustainability  
Syllabus – Spring 2016**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson

Office: RAS 114

Phone: 837-8826

Email: [pharveson@sulross.edu](mailto:pharveson@sulross.edu)

Office hours: Will be posted on office door but you are welcome to stop by my office anytime. Please email or call as needed.

**Course Description:**

Course examines the theories, principles, and practices of sustainability. Topics covered will include water resources, food production, urban development, and economics.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will learn about sustainability in various forms as it effects natural resources and society. Specifically, upon course completion students shall have:

- an understanding of the elements of sustainability including ecosystems, social equity, environmental justice, food, energy, product life cycles, green building, and urban development; and
- an understanding of the tools and technical skills needed for dealing with and resolving sustainability issues.

**Textbooks (required):**

Robertson, M. 2014. Sustainability Principles and Practice. Routledge Press, New York. 392 pp. ISBN: 9780415840187

**Grading:**

Assignments	40%
Discussion/Case Study Participation	40%
Case Study Assignment	20%
<hr/>	
Total	100%

**Scale:** 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = F

**Readings:**

Weekly readings will be assigned from the textbook as well as additional sources. Please be sure to keep up with the readings. It is easy to get behind in an online course so please stick to (or get ahead of) the schedule posted in Blackboard.

**Assignments:**

Assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will be due that class week. The class is structured into weekly time periods that begin on Monday and end on Sunday. All assignments are due by Sunday. In case there is a technical issue with Blackboard on the weekend, you will be given a “grace period” until Monday at noon to submit assignments. After this grace period, **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** See the class schedule (posted in Blackboard) for the dates and assignments for each week.

**Case Studies – Sustainability:**

Students will be asked to select a topic that we are covering in class to research as a case study (see schedule for topics). Each student will choose a different topic and “curate” articles from the internet to create a story to share with the rest of class. The class will then comment on these curated case studies. More information on 1) choosing the topic, 2) curating information, and 3) commenting will be provided during the class.

**Discussion Boards:**

Each week, one or more Discussion Boards will be posted to Blackboard for student participation. Each student should participate in the forum and each posting will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion. For each discussion board, you will need to make your own original post (by Wednesday), as well as comment on posts by other students or instructors (by Sunday). You must make these postings during the week in which it was scheduled. Please make your first initial post (original post) by Wednesday of the week it is scheduled. You then have until Sunday to respond to other posts. I suggest you reply to at least 2 other student posts to facilitate discussion and receive maximum credit. You will not receive credit for late postings.

**Participation:**

There are no exams in this class, so participation in discussion forums and case studies will be weighted heavily in your final grade. This course will be so much more enjoyable and informative if we have very active and intentional communication.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes copying, sharing, or obtaining information from an unauthorized source, attempting to take credit for the intellectual work of another person, falsifying information, and giving or receiving information about a test, quiz, or assignment to another student. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will receive no credit (0) for work done and/or may be penalized in accordance with published university rules.

**Accessibility Services:**

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability please contact the ADA Coordinator in Counseling and Accessibility Services: located in the Ferguson Hall 112, (432) 837-8203.

**Distance Education Statement:**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard, which require secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:***Program Learning Outcomes for the M.Agr. in Range and Wildlife Management*

The 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 as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

*Program Learning Outcomes for the M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management*

The 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. Examine, select, and utilize appropriate resources, materials, and data collection instruments to implement research projects.
4. Justify and defend the research questions and design.

**Course Schedule (tentative):**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning Date</b>	<b>Ending Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings - Textbook</b>
1	19-Jan	24-Jan	Sustainability	1-2
2	25-Jan	31-Jan	Biosphere/Humansphere	3-4
3	1-Feb	7-Feb	Sust. Practice	5
4	8-Feb	14-Feb	Climate	6
5	15-Feb	21-Feb	Water	7
6	22-Feb	28-Feb	Ecosystems	8
7	29-Feb	6-Mar	Pollution	9
8	7-Mar	13-Mar	Energy	10
9	14-Mar	20-Mar	Spring Break	---
10	21-Mar	27-Mar	Green building/cities	11-12
11	28-Mar	3-Apr	Food	13
12	4-Apr	10-Apr	Products	14
13	11-Apr	17-Apr	Waste/Recycling	15
14	18-Apr	24-Apr	Implementation	16
15	25-Apr	1-May	Education	17
16	2-May	8-May	Activism	18