

NRM 3301 – Fire Ecology
Dept. of Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University
Spring 2020 – Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Carlos E. Gonzalez

E-mail: carlos.gonzalez-gonzalez@sulross.edu

Office: 116 RAS

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Lecture location: RAS 129

Time: Monday & Wednesday, 12:00 P.M. – 12:50 P.M.

Friday, we do not meet in class.

Course Description

Fire Ecology is of interest to many, and there are various areas of focus about fire and its impact on ecosystems. In this course we will on the impact of fire on plants, particularly the native plant communities, give a historical perspective on the role of fire in major ecosystems in the United States. Additionally, the goal of this course is familiarizing the student with ecological theory and its applications for management.

Course Objectives

- Provide an understanding of the ecological theory which is useful for improving the range resources and to facilitate its use by domestic animals and wildlife.
- To gain an understanding of the broad biological significance of fire ecology theory.
- To gain an understanding of the questions that ecologists study, the methods they use, and the questions that remain unanswered.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is responsible for all material presented in lecture, handouts, text, supplemental readings, and class discussion. If the student is absent from lecture, it is the student responsibility to get the lecture material from another classmate.

Text Book (Optional): Wright, H. A., and A. W. Bailey. 1982. Fire Ecology. United States and Southern Canada.

Student Learning Outcomes

The students will acquire knowledge and skills to understand fire ecological theory and knowledge to accomplish range sustainability, range interpretation to determine the biological and economical value of rangelands and elaboration of written reports. The students will be able to understand the practical value of range ecology methods and its application in real life situations.

Grading

Four comprehensive one-hour exams will be given during the semester. Additionally, assignments will be given during the semester. Although there are 4 exams throughout the semester, only the 3 highest exam grades will be used for your final grade.

<u>Grading</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Final	100
Class assignments	100
Attendance	100
S-130 & S-190	100
Total possible points	600

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = <60%

Course Outline. *Tentative and subject to change*

January	13	Introduction to class
	15	Introduction to Fire Ecology - History
	20	No class. MLK Holiday.
	22	Introduction to Fire Ecology - History
	27	Pronghorn Captures
February	29	Pronghorn Captures
	3	Heat Effects
	5	Soil and Water
	10	Soil and Water
	12	EXAM I
	17	Wildlife
	19	Wildlife
	24	Grasslands
March	26	Grasslands
	2	Grasslands
	4	Ecological Types
	9	No class. Spring Break.
	11	No class. Spring Break.
	16	Ecological Types
	18	EXAM II
	23	Prescribed Burning
25	Prescribed Burning	
	30	Prescribed Burning

April	1	Prescribed Burning
	6	Prescribed Burning
	8	EXAM III
	13	Silverio Avila
	15	Sara Turner
	20	
	22	No class. Last day of class.

**** These dates are tentative and subject to change. ****

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 other students. 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.

Counseling and Accessibility Services:

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.