

NRM 4311 – Problems in Natural Resource Management: Ecological Restoration
Dept. of Natural Resource Management, Sul Ross State University
Spring 2020 – Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Carlos E. Gonzalez

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Office: 116 RAS

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

Lecture location: 116 RAS

Time: TBD

Course Description

Ecological restoration is the process of repairing dysfunctional ecosystems to provide essential ecosystem goods and services important to society. The Ecological Restoration class prepares students with requirements for an understanding of the causes of land degradation and strategies for recovery of ecosystems damaged, degraded, or destroyed by natural or human causes.

The class will focus on restoration of damaged ecosystems and landscapes, particularly terrestrial, and riparian systems in diverse settings that span the rural spectrum. The discipline of ecological restoration requires a strong conceptual/theoretical foundation as well as a practical application component. This class combines basic sciences, modern technologies, and contemporary ecological knowledge. Students will develop practical capabilities and gain critical understanding of the land degradation and restoration through a program that incorporates integrated coursework and experience ecological restoration practitioners.

Course Objectives

- Completion of this course will prepare students to assess the causes of ecosystem degradation.
- Develop strategies for ecological restoration at multiple spatial scales.
- Provide a foundation for students planning to pursue advanced degrees in restoration ecology, disturbed land reclamation, natural resources conservation and management, or related fields.

Text Book (Optional): Palmer, M. A., J. B. Zedler, and D. A. Falk. 2016. Foundations of Restoration Ecology.

Grading

Two comprehensive one-hour exams will be given during the semester. Additionally, assignments will be given during the semester.

<u>Grading</u>	<u>Points</u>
Attendance/Discussion	100
Reports	100
Final Project	100
Total possible points	300

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = <60%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is responsible for all material presented in lectures, 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.

Reports

Reports are mandatory. Each student is responsible for writing a weekly report up to 2 pages double spaced, font size 12 regarding material presented in text, supplemental readings, and class discussion. Reports are due the time and day of lecture. Late reports will receive a grade of 0.

Final Project

Students will use all the information gathered over the semester to give a 15 minute presentation on how Restoration Ecology can be used for management. Specifically, students will focus on the restoration of the pasture across the ANRS. Grading will be based upon the following:

- Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is clearly and consistently observable and is skillful and makes the content of the presentation cohesive.

- Language choices are imaginative, memorable, and compelling, and enhance the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.
- Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation compelling, and speaker appears polished and confident.
- A variety of types of supporting materials (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.
- Central message is compelling (precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported.)

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.

Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.