

Sul Ross State University
Dept. of Natural Resource Management
NRM 5304 - Research
Spring 2020 Course Syllabus

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Catalog Description: Advanced studies in natural resource management. Problems assigned according to experience, interest and needs of the individual student.

Course Objective: On completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to develop and write a research proposal, either for field research or literature synthesis research
2. Students will be able to collect and analyze information based on their research proposal using appropriate resources and data collection methods.
3. Students will be able to communicate and justify their research findings in a final report.

Course Outline:

- A. Introduction: Research and project expectations
- B. Proposal Writing
- C. Data Collection and Analysis
- D. Final Report Writing

Class Meetings: This class is an individual studies course with each student dealing with a different topic within the framework of the class. We will meet on a regular basis as determined at the beginning of the semester for project updates and Q&A sessions. These meetings may be in person, by phone, or by email based on the student's project schedule.

Class Organization: This course is designed in a manner to encourage independent study and self-learning. This means that it is up to you to schedule your time to meet the requirements of this course. You should plan on spending at least 2 hrs each day on the course to maintain the work requirements necessary to be successful (total of approximately 150 hours).

Your research project can take one of two forms: Field Research or Synthesis Research. For the Field Research you will be developing a project and completing original data collection in the field or lab. For the Synthesis Research, you will develop a hypothesis and conduct literature research to collect data and information to develop your final report. No late assignments will be accepted.

Due Dates:

Proposal: February 9, 2020

Final Paper: April 29, 2020

Weekly updates will be expected from each student. These can be in person, by phone or email.

Grading:

Proposal	25%
Effort and Participation	25%
Final Report	50%
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 100%

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

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. Copying information verbatim from a book, another paper, or the internet is also plagiarism, instead you must paraphrase or state the information in your own words. 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. Multiple offenses will result in the expulsion from the class with the grade of F.

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.

Distance Education Non-Participation Statement: Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences. In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than 3 weeks in a long semester, 1 week in a summer session, or 3 days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an "F" in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following:

- Not logging on to the course
- Not submitting assignments

- Not participating in scheduled activities
- Not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or
- Not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

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.

Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools:

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

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to research.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references to substantiate the applied research project.
3. Students will be able to justify and defend research questions and design.

Student Learning Outcomes for the M.Ag. in Natural Resource Conservation.

1. Students will be able to apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data.
2. Students will be able to evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.