

**Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University**  
**NRM 5322 – Sustainability**  
**Syllabus – Spring 2021**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson

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Office hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Since this is an online class, communication will be through email or phone. If you would like to meet in person or on zoom, please call or email me to schedule an appointment.

**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.

**Textbook (required):**

- Robertson, M. 2017. Sustainability Principles and Practice. Second edition. Routledge Press, New York. 418 pp. ISBN-10: 1138650242 / ISBN-13: 9781138650244
- ***NOTE: This book is available as a free ebook from the SRSU library website. But access is not always guaranteed, so you may want to purchase it anyway.***

**Grading:**

Activities (15 @ 100 pts each)	1500
Discussion Boards (15 @ 100 pts each)	1500
Quizzes (14 @ 100 pts each)	1400
Research Paper	1000
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Total Points	5400

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

**Weekly 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 at midnight. No points will be given for late assignments except under extraordinary circumstances. Students should contact the instructor to request an exception for late work. See the class schedule (posted in Blackboard) for the dates and assignments for each week.

**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.

**Activities:**

Various activities will be assigned each week. These activities may include reading papers, watching videos/documentaries, and/or exploring other internet material. In most cases, you will be asked to write an essay about these activities. Your written work will be submitted via Blackboard by the weekly deadline.

**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 Thursday), 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 Thursday of the week it is scheduled. You then have until Sunday to respond to other posts. You should reply to >2 other student posts to facilitate discussion and receive maximum credit. You will not receive credit for late postings.

**Quizzes:**

Each week you will take a quiz in Blackboard that covers the textbook readings for that week. Each quiz will contain randomly drawn questions based on the information presented in your textbook. You can take each quiz up to 3 times and your highest score will be used. Each quiz must be taken by the weekly due date.

**Research Paper:**

During the semester, you will be working on a research paper on a topic of your choosing. The topic must relate to a chapter in your textbook (e.g., climate, pollution). The paper must be based on peer-reviewed research and will be due at the end of the semester. More information about the paper will be provided in Blackboard.

**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 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.

**ADA Statement:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Telephone: 432-837-8203, or E-mail: [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu).

For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

**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:**

*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.

**Spring 2021 Course Schedule (see Blackboard for a more detailed schedule):**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning Date</b>	<b>Ending Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	11-Jan	17-Jan	Sustainability
2	18-Jan	24-Jan	Biosphere
3	25-Jan	31-Jan	Human sphere
4	1-Feb	7-Feb	Climate
5	8-Feb	14-Feb	Water
6	15-Feb	21-Feb	Ecosystems
7	22-Feb	28-Feb	Pollution
8	1-Mar	7-Mar	Energy
9	8-Mar	14-Mar	Spring Break
10	15-Mar	21-Mar	Green building/cities
11	22-Mar	28-Mar	Food
12	29-Mar	4-Apr	Products
13	5-Apr	11-Apr	Waste/Recycling
14	12-Apr	18-Apr	Working in an Organization
15	19-Apr	25-Apr	Education
16	26-Apr	2-May	Working as Agents for Change