

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

NRM 5325: W01

Web Delivered Course

Spring 2021

Instructor:

Joshua Cross

Email: jcross@sulross.edu

Office hours: Since this is an online class, communication will be through email or phone by appointment.

Textbook (required):

Natural Resources: Ecology, Economics, and Policy. 2003, second edition. By Jerry Holechek, Richard Cole, James Fisher, and Raul Valdez. Prentice Hall. Available at the SRSU Bookstore and via online retailers such as Amazon.com.

Additional reading:

Leopold, Aldo, 1949. *A Sand County Almanac – The Land Ethic* (available in course documents on Blackboard)

MacCleery, Doug, 1999. *Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic: Is it Only Half a Loaf Unless a Consumption Ethic Accompanies It? or Is the Shift to "Ecological Sustainability" on U.S. Public Lands Merely a Sophisticated "NIMBYism" Masquerading as a "Paradigm Shift?"* (available in course documents on Blackboard)

Learning Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the science of natural resource management. At the end of this course you will be able to understand and explain the history, science, and policy approaches to natural resource management and apply that knowledge to solving problems regarding the use of rangeland, wildlife, soil and water resources within a social context. By the completion of the course you should be able to identify and understand key natural resource management issues and integrate ecological, economic, and policy management criteria in an applied framework. Students will use reading assignments, problem solving skills, and critical thinking to analyze, interpret and discuss these natural resource issues in persuasive essays and short responses. This course will contribute to mastering student learning outcomes (SLOs) for the M.Ag. and M.S. non-thesis degrees in Range and Wildlife Management in which a 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) demonstrate their knowledge of and mastery of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

Grades:

2 one-hour exams @ 100 points ea. 200 points

Weekly assignments 100

Term paper 100

Total 400 points (possible)

Final grade assignment: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; < 60 =F.

Tentative Exam Schedule:

Exam 1 - March 5

Exam 2 - May 3

Term Paper Schedule:

Submit topic for approval – February 26 (submit via email to instructor)

Title & Outline due – March 19 (submit via email to instructor)

Paper due – April 23 (submit through SafeAssign)

Assignments due weekly, as noted (see assignments for dates).

Course Material:

This is a web-delivered course. Your grade will be based upon three components: 1) two one-hour essay/short answer exams, 2) one term paper, and 3) weekly reading assignments with concise essays and responses to questions. Exams will be timed. For each exam a study guide of review questions will be posted in Blackboard under “Course Documents.” Each exam will consist of questions derived from this study guide. Assignments will be posted on a weekly basis with the majority of material based on readings from the textbook. Additional readings will also be assigned and available through online links on Blackboard. On occasion, some terms or questions in the exam study guide will not be covered in the assigned reading. In those cases it is up to you to independently research the term or question. Normally, assignments will be posted on a Monday and you will have one work week to respond to the assignment (e.g. it will be due by 5:00 p.m. Alpine, Texas (Central) time the following Monday). The term paper criteria and assessment procedure are posted in Blackboard under “Course Documents.” All assignments will be submitted via the assignment component of Blackboard, unless otherwise instructed. All expected test dates and term paper deadlines are listed below under “Grades.” All dates and times will be based on local time in Alpine, Texas. Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable and will be handled accordingly. I will utilize the online plagiarism software SafeAssign within Blackboard.

Grading:

Grading will basically reward two things: the **quality** and **timeliness** of your responses and assignments. You should utilize good writing practices (use spell-check, concise writing, proper grammar and syntax) and directly address questions posed. Effective communication is probably one of the most important tools you will take into the workforce, and I place a premium on your ability to communicate clearly and effectively on your assignments. Regular participation is an essential part of this online course and I expect that you will log on to the course at least twice every seven days. You must read all of the assignments and assigned material. Late assignments will only be accepted under extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor. If an assignment is accepted late, a point penalty will be assessed, again at instructor discretion. All grades will be posted in the Blackboard Grade Center.

Communication:

All communications via email will be conducted through your Sul Ross State University email address. Please do not request that other email addresses be used. Because of spam filters and the

volume of email I receive it is likely that if you send email from another address (e.g. yahoo.com, hotmail.com, gmail.com, etc.) it will be filtered as junk mail and I will not receive it. I do not review all email on a daily basis. I intend to generally conduct class business during my posted office hours – that will be the time period in which I will normally respond to questions and emails. You are free to send email at any time, but please keep in mind that I will most likely respond during the work week office hour periods.

All email should include the following in the subject line: First initial + last name + brief description of subject (for example: J Cross –question for assignment 2). **“Sign” your name in emails.** It is difficult to identify you by the email address alone. Assignments and attached files should similarly be titled: First initial + last name + assignment name (for example: J Cross Assignment 1.docx). I will accept Word document files, or Excel, and PowerPoint as the exercise dictates. Please contact me in advance if you desire to submit other file formats so we can insure compatibility. If you fail to include an appropriate subject line, your email may be accidentally purged with junk mail.

Miscellaneous Notes:

This syllabus is your guidebook and contract for the course. I plan to adhere to the syllabus; however, on occasion events occur in which it is advantageous to you to make adjustments. As an example, it may become apparent that there is a reason to adjust the date that the term paper is due. If something like this occurs, I will give you advanced notification of such a change. If you find that despite your best efforts you are unable to submit an assignment, or have some other challenges with the course, notify me as soon as you can. I may be able to help you resolve the problem, and at the least, I know you are conscientious enough to keep me informed.

The **Graduate Student Center**, located in BAB 104, provides resources and services for all SRSU graduate students. There is a computer lab with desktop computers and a networked printer/copier/scanner; laptop computers which can be checked out; a projector and screen for rehearsing student presentations; and a conference room for group study. Both Alpine and distance education students can receive writing and thesis assistance by contacting gradcenter@sulross.edu or calling 432-837-8524.

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 C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Course Topical Outline

- I. Course Introduction – Meet the instructor, review syllabus, submit student introduction via class assignment to instructor. Assignment 1.
- II. Overview – Basic natural resource concepts and terms (Chapter 1) Assignment 2.
- III. Management Foundations
 - A. Historical Perspective (Chapter 2) Assignment 3.
 - B. The Land Ethic (Assigned reading) Assignment 4.
 - C. Basic Ecology (Chapter 3) Assignment 5.
 - D. Conservation Economics (Chapter 4) and Planning, Policy, & Administration
 - E. Assignment 6.
- IV. Air, Water, and Land Resources
 - A. Atmospheric Resources and Climate (Chapter 6) Assignment 7.
 - B. Water Resources (Chapter 7) Assignment 8.
 - C. Soil Resources (Chapter 8) Assignment 9.
 - D. United States Ecosystems (Chapter 9) Assignment 10.
- V. The Land-Based and Renewable Wild Living Resources
 - A. Rangeland and Range Management (Chapter 11) Assignment 11.
 - B. Wildlife Conservation and Management (Chapter 15) Assignment 12.
 - C. Biodiversity and Endangered Species Management (Chapter 17)
Assignment 13