

NRM 5302 Ecology and Field Biology
Summer I, 2017

Instructor:

Ryan Luna, Ph.D.
Office: 113 RAS
Phone 432-837-8615
Email: rluna@sulross.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course description:

A field course that emphasizes field logistics, observation, and maintaining a field notebook. Multiple ecosystems within a relatively small latitude and longitude gradient will be compared and discussed.

Class meetings

TBD

Tentative Course Outline:

Lecture	topic
1	Introduction to Course and Logistics in planning a multiple person field trip
3	Salt Flat: Saline and Gypsic Ecosystems
4	Guadalupe Mountains: Canyon riparian ecosystem
5	Carlsbad Caverns: Cave ecosystems
6	Carlsbad: Chihuahuan desert shrub ecosystem
7	Lincoln National Forest: Forest ecosystems
8	White Sands: Dune ecosystems
9	Desert Grassland Ecosystem
10	

Required Text:

None

Learning objectives:

1. Students will be able to organize a multiperson multiday field trip
2. Students will be able to collect data in the field about abiotic and biotic factors and cycles of ecosystems in the field
3. Students will be able to compare ecosystems and discuss why these areas differ from one another and discuss the factors controlling ecosystem processes.

Class organization:

|

1. You must participate on the field trip, and this is 30% of your grade. Each person is expected to contribute to discussions and data collection. This is not just a camping trip! You will need to participate at each field site. I also expect everyone to pitch in on camp work.
2. We will be gone for 5 days and will not be returning to Alpine during that time. We will be camping and not staying in hotels or eating at restaurants. Showers will be limited. Please be aware of this. Making everyone on the trip miserable because you can't rough it will result in a poor participation grade.
3. It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility 837-8203. If you have any health problems or dietary restrictions or allergies, you will need to let me know prior to leaving on the trip.
4. You will be required to keep a field notebook throughout the trip. This will constitute 60% of your grade. At each stop you must record data on location, soils, elevation, topography, sunlight, climate, vegetation structure and composition, and wildlife species.

Grades:

½ day Introduction and preparation	10 Points
Field Notebook:	60 points
Participation on trip:	30 points

Grading:

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