
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

AGB 4308

Sul Ross State University
Syllabus: Spring 2022



INSTRUCTOR

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MEETING TIMES

Lecture T&Th 2:00-3:15

COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS & OFFICE HOURS

I want to see you and talk to you! My goal is for you to have a great learning experience in the class. Please remember that you are my priority and that I will make time to talk with you, but you need to reach out if you need help. My office hours at **RAS 101 are T&Th from 3:30-5:00** and in **WSB T&Th 10:00-12:00**. You can use the **Virtual Office Discussion Forum** for issues related to the class as well. Because I subscribe to this forum, an email will be sent to us. I will respond within 24 hours during the work week to the discussion board. If you reach out during the weekend, I will respond as soon as possible, but please expect a delayed response. Please use the **Blackboard Help Desk** for issues related to technical problems with BB.

TEXT BOOK

Required: **No book is required. Readings will be posted on BB**

You can also find needed resources through the library. The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine. Offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Natural Resource and Environmental Economics! I'll be working with you this semester to help you gain an appreciation for how human behavior and the science of economics intersects with how we use natural resources. We will explore and analyze the use and management of natural resources. The natural world contains resources that enable our existence and provide for qualities of life we enjoy. These resources range from those above the ground - air, water, plants, wildlife, etc. to those beneath the ground - natural gas, oil, water, metals etc. Uses of these resources are dynamic through time as human use and needs change. Economic analysis will reveal the "efficient" use of resources and identify the impact on natural systems.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be expected to develop the following knowledge throughout the course.

- Students will be able to define and illustrate how economic concepts relate to natural resources
- Students will be able to understand and quantify how markets and resource allocation impact natural resources
- Students will be able to integrate the knowledge of economic theory with regulation strategies to predict natural resource use

Students will be expected to develop the following general marketable skills throughout the course.

- Team work: Students will develop team work through small group interaction.
- Communication: Students will improve communication skills through group discussions and written reflections.
- Quantitative and empirical skills: Students will develop quantitative skills through calculations of economic characteristics of natural resource use.
- Critical thinking: Students will practice critical thinking in the discussion and development of efficient and sustainable models for natural resource use.

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The graduating student will be able to demonstrate that he/she is able to:

- Identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
- Demonstrate knowledge of elements of an ecosystem
- Communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing
- Conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting
- Apply knowledge of elements of an ecosystem into an appropriate conservation management plan

ADA STATEMENT

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at [432-837-8203](tel:432-837-8203) (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials." —SRSU Student Handbook

Do your own work and use your own words! I am interested in what YOU know and think!

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

We will be discussing topics that are controversial in the class. I have every expectation that you will not agree with everything that I say or that your classmates say during the course. My expectation is that you will apply critical thinking in the class, and present your ideas and opinions in a thoughtful and reasonable way. Disruptive or intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior is defined as anything that prevents students from learning and/or prevents the professor from teaching. Especially in discussion forums, participants must be courteous and respectful. To respectfully disagree without contempt is a life skill that will serve you well in the future. You have the right to disagree with others, but you are to do so diplomatically.

ASSIGNMENT MAKEUP POLICY

Turn work in on time! There will be an in class assignment due each week. You can miss four weeks (assignments) without impacting your grade. You can make up 1/2 of the in class points by submitting your reflection. No work will be accepted more than 1 week late.

GRADES & DETERMINING YOUR COURSE GRADE

The Bb Grade Center defaults to Calculate as Running Total. The system does not tabulate final course grades until students complete all assignments. Rather than emailing instructors to ask for your grade, you could view your My Grades page and tabulate current totals. If at any point in the semester you want to gauge your progress, an easy way for you to calculate a projected grade is to divide the number of points you have earned by the total number of points available in the course. This will give you your grade as it stands at a particular moment in the semester (or at least a rough estimate), and then you can calculate out the possibilities for the final grade by projecting various possible grades for the remaining assignments. Additionally, you will find it helpful to visit the My Grades page to receive feedback from Instructors... feedback via text, audio, and grade points. This information will ultimately help you evaluate your current grade and predict future outcomes.

There will be 10 points available each week, with a total of 140 points. And 100 points available for the final project. I will grade the class with a 200 point total. This means that I will drop your 4 lowest weekly scores. Your final project will be worth 50% of your grade, so you must complete it.

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

SCHEDULE

Week	Course Unit	Assignments	Points Avail
Week 1 (Online)	Syllabus, Introduction	Syllabus Quiz; Intro Discussion	10
Week 2	Fundamental concepts: opportunity cost, scarcity, production possibilities	Select a renewable and a non renewable natural resource to focus on through the semester	10
Week 3	Values: Ethics, self-interest, the common good, social order, positive and normative economics	Discussion and reflection on how values impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 4	Competitive market	Discussion and reflection on how competitive markets impact management of your selected resources	10

Week 5	Market demand and supply	Discussion and reflection on how demand and supply impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 6	Market equilibrium and efficiency and failure	Discussion and reflection on how market equilibrium, efficiency, and failure impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 7	Role of property rights and common property	Discussion and reflection on how property rights impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 8	Allocation of resources – nonrenewable, recyclable, renewable, and common-pool	Discussion and reflection on how allocation of resources impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 9	Systems Management	Discussion and reflection on how systems impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 10	Cost Benefit Analysis	Discussion and reflection on how cost benefit analysis can be conducted on your selected resources	10
Week 11	Integration of systems management	Discussion and reflection on how integrating systems management impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 12	Environmental regulation	Discussion and reflection on how regulations impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 13	Compliance and Deterrence: Economics of crime, EPA enforcement, compliance	Discussion and reflection on how compliance and deterrence impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 14	Incentive Regulation: Market-based regulation, cap and trade, emissions trading, pollution taxes	Discussion and reflection on how incentives impact management of your selected resources	10
Week 15 (one day)	Wrap up		
Week 16 (finals)		Final Project Presentation	100