

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University

NRM 5322 – Sustainability

Syllabus – Spring 2022

Instructor:

Betsy Evans

Office: WML 103 (Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Level 1)

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Office hours: Monday - Friday 8 AM to 5 PM. Because this is an online class, and I am not always in my office, communication will be through email or phone. You are welcome to drop by the library or schedule time to meet with me in person or via Teams.

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 – three users can access it simultaneously - so you may choose to purchase it.***

Grading:

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

Total Points 5400

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

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University

NRM 5322 – Sustainability

Syllabus – Spring 2022

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 more than 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

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University
NRM 5322 – Sustainability
Syllabus – Spring 2022

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:

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with 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 (please leave a message) or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. The Accessibility Services office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and the mailing address is PO Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832.

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University
NRM 5322 – Sustainability
Syllabus – Spring 2022

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.

Library Assistance Statement:

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 LobID 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).

Academic Integrity Statement:

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect Statement:

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement:

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University
NRM 5322 – Sustainability
Syllabus – Spring 2022

crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Additional Outcome Objectives as Required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

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.

Marketable Skills for the M.Ag. in Range and Wildlife Management

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of key NRM topics
2. Students will be able to apply knowledge to projects that include bio statistics, research methods, and scientific writing.
3. Students will demonstrate skills in scientific writing and analysis

Dept. Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University
NRM 5322 – Sustainability
Syllabus – Spring 2022

Spring 2022 Course Schedule:
see Blackboard for more

Week	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Topics
1	10-Jan	16-Jan	Sustainability
2	17-Jan	23-Jan	Biosphere (1/17 = MLK Jr. Day)
3	24-Jan	30-Jan	Human sphere
4	31-Jan	6-Feb	Climate
5	7-Feb	13-Feb	Water
6	14-Feb	20-Feb	Ecosystems
7	21-Feb	27-Feb	Pollution
8	28-Feb	6-Mar	Energy
9	7-Mar	13-Mar	no topic! (Mar 7-11 = Spring Break)
10	14-Mar	20-Mar	Green building/cities
11	21-Mar	27-Mar	Food
12	28-Mar	3-Apr	Products
13	4-Apr	10-Apr	Waste/Recycling
14	11-Apr	17-Apr	Working in an Organization (4/15-17 = Easter)
15	18-Apr	24-Apr	Education
16	25-Apr	1-May	Working as Agents for Change