

RCH 3301
Sustainability in Agriculture
Summer 2022

Professors:

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Course description:

This course provides an in depth look at environmental, social, and economic sustainability on a global to local scale. Emphasis will be placed on how ranchers and land managers can provide for long-term sustainability through planning and implementation of sustainable practices.

Class meetings:

The class will be held as a Texas ranch field class and will be meeting June 27th-July 2nd.

Tentative Course Outline:

See the attached itinerary.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn about the agricultural industry in Texas and be able to identify: major challenges to sustainability in Texas; Texas's role in global agricultural market; Texas's impact on and relationship with U.S. agricultural industry.
2. Students will be able to analyze how decisions by ranch managers, landholders, and scientists in Texas are affecting sustainable practices and the environmental, economic, and societal pressures that are helping or hindering these practices.
3. Students will be able to evaluate management practices in agriculture in Texas and determine the level of sustainability and best practices that are being applied or developed.

Marketable Skills:

1. Students will develop skills in oral and written communication
2. Learning through workshops in an adult learning framework
3. Decision making and analysis of industry practices

Required Text:

None: Readings will be assigned.

Class Organization

1. This is a field based class to different places in Texas. You will be expected to act appropriately as ambassadors for Sul Ross State University. You are expected to be on time and ready for each day's activities. Be aware of your own personal safety and be responsible for your actions. Participation is a large part of the grade and you will be graded on your level of interaction, your attitude, and your professionalism.

2. You will be expected to complete you own work. Cheating on an assignment will result in an F for that material and possible expulsion from the class with a grade of F.
3. It is Sul Ross State University Policy to provide reasonable accommodation 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. This must be done prior to leaving on the trip.

Grades:

Field trip participation	25% (50 points)
Assignments	75% (150 points)

Reading assignments (50 points): Readings will be assigned throughout the trip with an assigned time for discussion. You will be expected to complete the reading and participate in the discussion.

Photo Scavenger Hunt (50 points): You will be given prompts on items, examples, situations to find and photograph during the trip. You will put your pictures into a power point with one prompt per slide. Each slide will contain the prompt, photo, and caption explaining how the photograph illustrates the prompt.

Journal (50 points): You will be keeping a daily journal of thoughts, activities, and observations. This can be done electronically or hard copy and will be turned in at the end of the class to be graded.

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

Student Learning Outcomes for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management

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

1. Identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
3. Communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.
4. Conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting.

This course will address SLOs 2 and 3.