NRM 5322: Sustainability

Department of Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University
College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Sciences (ALPS)
NRM 5322: Sustainability
Syllabus, Spring 2023

Instructor: Betsy Helesic (Evans), M.S.I.S., M.Ag
- Office: WML 103 (Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Level 1)
- Phone: 432-837-8312
- Email: betsy.evans@sulross.edu
- Office hours: Monday - Friday 8 AM to 5 PM and by appointment. 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.

Class meeting time and space:
Asynchronous Blackboard (Web)

Course Catalog Description:
This 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, see note):
- Robertson, M. 2021. Sustainability Principles and Practice. Third edition. Routledge Press, New York. 554 pp. ISBN-13: 9780367365219
- *NOTE: The second edition of this book is available as a free eBook from the SRSU library (library.sulross.edu) giving access to three (3) users at a time. The third edition*

NRM 5322: Sustainability

has expanded and updated some content. I can make additional chapters of the third edition available if you do not wish to purchase this book. Contact me if this is the case.

Grading:
Students will receive feedback on graded assignments in the **My Grades** area of Blackboard, under **COURSE INFORMATION**. Grading percentage breakdowns are below and further information about assignments follow. Rubrics for specific types of assignments are available in **My Grades**.

Weekly Reports (15 @ 100 points each)	1500
Weekly Discussions (15 @ 100 points each)	1500
Weekly Quizzes (14 @ 100 points each)	1400
Final Research Paper (1 @ 1000 points)	1000
Total Points	5400

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

NRM 5322: Sustainability

How this class works:
- This is an asynchronous, web-based course in Blackboard
  - The Blackboard course content is broken down into three areas, found on the left hand menu inside the course: **COURSE INFORMATION**, **COURSE CONTENT**, and **QUICK LINKS**:

COURSE INFORMATION	COURSE CONTENT	QUICK LINKS
This section contains information that deal with general organization such as: - your course **Home Page** - the official course **Syllabus** - the instructor's **Virtual Office & Contact** information - specific **Activity Info – Weekly Quizzes** - specific **Activity Info – Weekly Discussions** - specific **Activity Info – Weekly Reports** - specific **Activity Info – Research Paper** - your **My Grades** hub	This section contains the content for the course: - This is where **Start Here** information lives - Each week has its own page with devoted content, including required readings and activities for that week. - Week by Week content will be made available upon each student's successful completion of the Syllabus quiz	This section is the catchall for other important and useful information. It contains links for tools that might be useful, such as: - direct link to the full **Discussion Board** - **Instructor Contact** info - info about **Grammarly** - Bb's **Send Email** tool

Syllabus Quiz

Before the **COURSE CONTENT** can be accessed (including content for Week 1), students must review the Start Here module content and complete the Syllabus Quiz. The Start Here module content is available under **COURSE CONTENT** in Blackboard.

More about Course Content

Each week of the course has a module outlining the required reading/viewing/exploring of resources; links to reading quizzes; report prompts; and discussion assignments. Each week's assignments are made available on Monday and due on Sunday at midnight. **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.

- **Weekly Reading / Viewing / Exploring:**
  We will read the entirety of the required textbook over the course of the term. Each week there will also be additional required reading, viewing, or exploration of external sources to expand on the textbook. Find each week's required Reading/Viewing/Exploring under that week's module in **COURSE CONTENT**.

- **Weekly Quizzes:**
  Each week you will take a quiz in Blackboard that covers the textbook readings. Each quiz will contain randomly drawn questions based on the information presented in your textbook. You can take each quiz up to three (3) times and your highest score incurred by the Sunday-midnight due date will be used. This information is also outlined in Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION > Activity Info – Weekly Quizzes**.
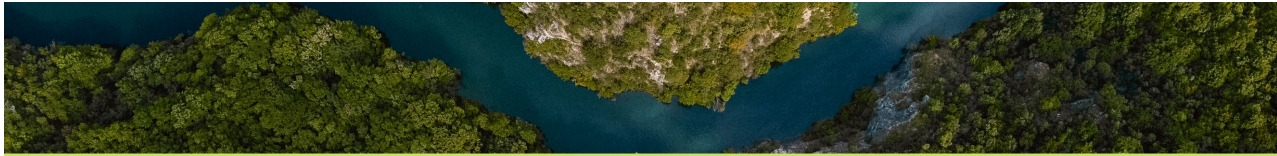
- **Weekly Discussions:**
  One or more topics of discussion will be posted to Blackboard for participation each week. Participate in the forum! This is where the magic happens. Each posting will be graded based upon the relevance, depth of knowledge, and unique contribution that it made to the discussion. To encourage dynamic discussions, make your own original post (**by Wednesday**), as well as comment on posts by other students or instructors (**by Saturday, knowing you have until the Sunday-midnight deadline to wrap up your thoughts**). Each student should reply to more than two (2) other student posts to facilitate discussion and receive maximum credit. This information is also outlined in Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION > Activity Info – Weekly Discussions**.

- **Weekly Reports:**
  One report will be assigned each week. These reports require thoughtful digestion of the required reading/viewing/exploration for that week. Specific requirements are provided in Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION > Activity Info – Weekly Reports**.

- **Final Research Paper:**
  Throughout the semester, you should work on a research paper on a topic of your choosing **approved by the instructor**. It is not appropriate to recycle or reuse a topic from another course unless there is significant expansion of thought and work. The topic must relate to a theme from the class (e.g., climate, pollution). The paper must be

based on peer-reviewed research and will be due at the end of the semester. Specific requirements are provided in Blackboard under **COURSE INFORMATION > Activity Info – Research Paper**.

Being Supported in an Online Course:
It's very important to know how to get help in an asynchronous, online course. Depending on the situation, there are options:

Virtual Office & Contact	The Support Desk
The **Virtual Office & Contact** (found in left-hand menu under COURSE INFORMATION) area provides instructor contact information. The instructor for this course is Betsy Evans. Reach Betsy by calling 432-837-8312 or emailing betsy.evans@sulross.edu.	The Support Desk is where you can direct more technical questions. For example, if you are having issues getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical glitch in the course. Reach the dedicated Support Desk by calling 888-837-6055 or emailing blackboardsupport@sulross.edu.
Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC) LTAC, or the Lobo Technology Assistance Center (AKA the Help Desk) can assist with questions related to your mySRSU/Banner/SRSU email technology, as well as with security concerns. Reach LTAC by calling 888-837-2882 or emailing ltac@sulross.edu	**SRSU Library** The SRSU Library and Archives staff librarians and archivists to assist you in your research and with general access of resources - for education and entertainment. Reach the SRSU Library by calling 432-837-8123 or emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

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.

NRM 5322: Sustainability

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 Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message) or email mschwartze@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.

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 and Archives of the Big Bend 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 LoboID 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 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

NRM 5322: Sustainability

Spring 2023 Course Schedule:
See Blackboard > COURSE CONTENT for detailed information each week.

Week	STARTS	ENDS	TOPIC
Week 1	*starts Wednesday* January 18	January 22	Context – What is sustainability? And A brief history of sustainability
Week 2	January 23	January 29	Context – The biosphere
Week 3	January 30	February 5	Context – The human sphere
Week 4	February 6	February 12	Issues/Solutions - Climate
Week 5	February 13	February 19	Issues/Solutions - Water
Week 6	February 20	February 26	Issues/Solutions - Ecosystems
Week 7	February 27	March 5	Issues/Solutions - Pollution
Week 8	March 6	March 12	Issues/Solutions - Energy
Week 9	March 13	March 19	*no class during Spring Break*
Week 10	March 20	March 26	Issues/Solutions – Green buildings and sustainable sites
Week 11	March 27	April 2	Issues/Solutions – Livable cities
Week 12	April 3	April 9	Issues/Solutions – Food
Week 13	April 10	April 16	Issues/Solutions – Products
Week 14	April 17	April 23	Issues/Solutions – Waste and Recycling
Week 15	April 24	April 30	Looking forward – Working in an organization
Week 16	May 1	May 7	Looking forward – Education and Working as Agents for Change
Week 17	May 8	May 10 *ends Wednesday* … so, finish up your Final Research Paper	

>>> Final Research Paper due Sunday May 14 at midnight <<<