

**Syllabus**  
**NRM 3305 Wildland Plants**  
**Fall 2025**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Eduardo A. Gonzalez-Valenzuela, Ph.D. Visiting professor and Grazing Specialist.

**Office Location:** RAS 108

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, and Thursday 1:00-3:00 PM

**Office Phone:** 432-837-8210.

University Email Address: [eduardo.gonzalez-valenzuela@sulross.edu](mailto:eduardo.gonzalez-valenzuela@sulross.edu)

Preferred Form of Communication: email

**Lecture/Lab location:** RAS 128

**TEACHING ASSISTANT (PLANT ID):**

Sarah J (SJ) Gilbert

E-mail: Email: [sjg20vn@sulross.edu](mailto:sjg20vn@sulross.edu)

**LECTURE**

RAS 128

Tuesday

9:30 am – 10:45 am

Thursday Lab

9:30-10:45

**TEXT (Recommended)\***

Plant Identification Terminology (2nd ed.): An Illustrated Glossary, James Harris and Melinda Harris

Trees and Shrubs of the Trans-Pecos, A. M. Powell

Grasses of the Trans-Pecos, A. M. Powell

Guide to Texas Grasses, R. Shaw North American Wildland Plants, Stubbendiek, Hatch, Bryan and Dunn, 3rd edition

Range Plants of North Central Texas, R Linex Wildflowers of the Davis Mountains and the Marathon Basin, B. H. Warnock

Wildflowers of the Guadalupe Mountains and the Sand Dune Country, B. H. Warnock

Woody Plants of the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos, L. Harveson et.al.

Flowering Plants of Trans-Pecos Texas and adjacent areas, Powell and Worthington

The management of natural resources requires knowledge of two main disciplines: wildlife ecology and rangeland ecology. Although the two are integral to management, wildlife managers usually lack a basic understanding of the latter. Rangeland ecology requires an understanding of rangeland ecological processes and management principles, as well as knowledge of rangeland plants.

**Specific course objectives include:**

1. To discuss basic botany of rangeland plants
2. To discuss rangeland plant interactions and ecosystem function
3. To identify major rangeland plants of southwestern rangelands

**STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES**

At the successful completion of this course, the student will:

- 1.Demonstrate understanding of the key ecological processes influencing rangeland plants
- 2.Demonstrate knowledge of topics/issues impacting other ecoregions and rangeland types
- 3.Demonstrate ability to identify common, rangeland plants of southwestern rangelands

**COURSE POLICIES**

1) Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is responsible for all material presented in lecture, handouts, text, supplemental readings, and class discussion. If the student is absent from lecture, it is the students responsibility to get the lecture material from another classmate.

2) Make-up Exams

Exams and course assignments are to be taken at the scheduled time. If pre-arrangements are not made and the student does not take the exam at the scheduled

time, then no exam will be given and the student will receive a ZERO FOR THAT EXAM. Make-up exams only will be allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Make-up exams only will be possible provided that (1) there are verifiable exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness or family emergency) and (2) you contact me prior to the exam to explain your situation and schedule a later date. Make-up exams will be different than the exam given in class and will be essay. Final exam dates and times are set by the university and cannot be rescheduled. Regarding lab, if the student is absent from lab and a quiz is given, then the student has only until the next lab period to make up the quiz, otherwise it will be assigned a 0. As for exams, the student needs to notify the instructor prior to missing lab, and make-up lab quizzes will only be allowed for excused absences.

### 3) Academic Integrity (see page 23, section 100 of Student Handbook)

I expect the highest form of integrity from my students. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in your dismissal from the class and a grade of F. Under certain circumstances, cheating can result in expulsion from the university.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION.**

Your grade will be based on the points accumulated during lecture and lab. Lecture exams will cover all material presented during lecture and will be multiple choice. Lab exams will cover all material presented during lab. The final exam will be comprehensive but optional. If you are satisfied with your grade in the class prior to the final, you do not have to take the final exam. Your final grade will be based on the total points accumulated during lecture and lab.

<u>Lecture Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exam 1	100 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	100 pts
<u>Final Comprehensive (optional)</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
	400 pts

A (90 - 100)   B (80 - 89.9)   C (70 - 79.9)   D (60 - 69.9)   F (< 60)

### Lab Assignments

1. Plant ID Quizzes / Lab Practicums                      400 pts

Students need to be able to identify common rangeland plants occurring on southwestern rangelands and their wildlife and livestock value. Lab will consist of plant identification in the field led by the instructor and conclude with a plant ID quiz. The plant list from which students will be quizzed will accumulate over the weeks.

2. Rangeland Evaluations

Students need to be able to synthesize the information provided by plant ID into a holistic evaluation of the wildlife and livestock value of rangeland. These exercises are designed to accomplish this task.

### **TENTATIVE CLASS OUTLINE**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>
--------------------	---------------------

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Plant Physiology</b>
---------------	-------------------------

Aug. 26	Introduction and Learner outcomes
---------	-----------------------------------

Sep 02	Plant Cells and tissues
--------	-------------------------

Sep. 9	Plant Transport: Water and food
--------	---------------------------------

Sep. 16	Photosynthesis
---------	----------------

Sep. 23	<b>Exam 1</b>
---------	---------------

<b>Part II</b>	<b>Plant Communities</b>
----------------	--------------------------

Sep. 30	Rangeland Types
---------	-----------------

Oct. 7	Texas Ecoregions
--------	------------------

Oct. 14	Rangeland Physical Characteristics
---------	------------------------------------

Oct. 21	Plant Communities: Succession and Competition
---------	---

Oct. 28	<b>Exam 2</b>
---------	---------------

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Management Issues</b>
-----------------	--------------------------

Nov. 04	Non-native Plants (Impacts on Wildlife)
---------	---

Nov. 11    Livestock Grazing (Impacts on Plant and Soil)  
Nov. 18    Multiple use of rangelands  
Nov. 25    Planning, Technology, and the Future  
Dec. 02    **EXAM 3**

### **TENTATIVE Fall 2025 Wildland Plants Lab Schedule**

First Day-August 28<sup>th</sup>: Schedule, class overview

W1-September 4<sup>th</sup>: Plant anatomy & taxonomy breakdown, Final project Explanation

W2-September 11<sup>th</sup>: Plant Anatomy Hunt, Roadsides - Set 1

W3-September 18<sup>th</sup>: Set 1 quiz, Rocky Slopes - Set 2

W4-September 25<sup>th</sup>: Set 2 quiz, Mountains & Oaks - Set 3

W5-October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Set 3 quiz, Desert Grassland I - Set 4

W6-October 9<sup>th</sup>: Set 4 quiz, Desert Grassland II - Set 5

W7-October 16<sup>th</sup>: Set 5 quiz

W8-October 23<sup>th</sup>: Midterm Plant ID

W9-October 30<sup>st</sup>: Desert Grassland III - Set 6

W10-November 6<sup>th</sup>: Set 6 quiz, Hot Desert Shrub I - Set 7

W11-November 13<sup>th</sup>: Set 7 quiz, Hot Desert Shrub II - Set 8

W12-November 20<sup>st</sup>: Set 8 quiz, Riparian - Set 9

W13-November 27<sup>th</sup>: **THANKGIVING BREAK**

**Final Project Due:** *November 2<sup>nd</sup> through December*

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES**

#### *Attendance*

1. Attendance is expected! If a student is absent from lecture or lab, **it is the student's responsibility to get the lecture material from another classmate**. The instructor will not give the student lecture notes or a private lesson.
2. If you believe you have an Excused Absence and will not be able to attend an exam, it is up to you to make arrangements to make-up the exam **PRIOR** to the exam's normally scheduled time.

If pre-arrangements are not made, and you do not take the exam at the scheduled time, then no make-up exam will be given and you will earn a zero for that exam.

3. If you miss an exam for an excused absence, please bring your excuse to the instructor as soon as you return to class. You will be given an opportunity to make up any exam missed for an excused absence. If you miss an exam for a reason that is not excused you will earn a zero on the quiz.
4. **What to do if you are absent when an assignment is due:**
  - a. If you have an excused absence the day something is due, that makes it due the next class period. You need to bring it to with you the next time you come to class. If you have an excused absence for more than one class day you have that many classes to turn it in when the excused absences are over. For example, if you have an excuse for two class days, then the assignment is due two class days after you return from the excused absence. If it is received any later than this it will be considered late, and 10% of the possible points will be deducted for each day that it is late.
  - b. If you have an unexcused absence—for example, you just decide not to come to class, the assignment is due immediately. Homework due at the beginning of class but turned in later that day is considered 1 day late. Homework will be accepted late up to two days after the due date. If you bring it to class next week (5 days late) it will not be accepted.

#### CELL PHONES:

The cell phone policy for this class is that all cell phones are to be turned off and put away in backpacks or pockets during class. Please give the campus police number to anyone who may need to contact you in an emergency, and they will interrupt class to contact you if an emergency arises.

#### *Late/Missing Work/Extra Credit*

1. Homework is expected to be on time. Homework turned in by the assignment date will be graded for full credit. Homework will be accepted late up to two days after the due date. In other words, if something is due on a Monday, it will be accepted through that Wednesday at the latest. However, 10% of the total possible points will be deducted for each late day. Homework due at the beginning of class but turned in later that day is considered 1 day late.

#### *Students with Disabilities*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation

### *Classroom Conduct Expectations*

Students are expected to assume individual responsibility for maintaining a productive learning environment and conduct themselves with the highest regard for response and consideration of others. Ongoing or single behaviors considered distracting will be addressed by the faculty member initially, but if the behavior becomes excessive and the student refuses to respond to the faculty member's efforts, the issue will be referred to the Dean of Students. In the case of serious disruptive behavior in a classroom, the instructor will first request compliance from the student and if the student fails to comply, the instructor has the authority to ask the student to leave the classroom. The student is expected to comply with the instructor's request and may subsequently contest this action using procedures established by the department. If the student fails to leave after being directed to do so, assistance may be obtained from other university personnel, including the University Police Department. The incident shall be handled as an academic misconduct matter using established departmental procedures for academic misconduct to determine if the student should be allowed to return to the classroom.

### *Academic Misconduct*

Students are expected to adhere to the highest academic standards of behavior and personal conduct in this course and all other courses. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to University disciplinary procedures. Students are expected to be familiar with the current Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct, which discusses conduct expectations and academic dishonesty rules. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Cheating: deception in which the student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the professor on assignments or examinations.
2. Aid of academic dishonesty: Intentionally facilitating any act of academic dishonesty. Tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation, and/or paraphrase of someone else's work, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism. Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.
5. Lying: deliberate falsification with the intent to deceive in written or verbal form as it applies to an academic submission.
6. Bribery: providing, offering or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment, or the aid of academic dishonesty.
7. Threat: an attempt to intimidate a student, staff or faculty member for the purpose of receiving an unearned grade or in an effort to prevent reporting of an Honor Code violation.

Other forms of academic misconduct included but are not limited to:

1. Failure to follow published departmental guidelines, professor's syllabi, and other posted academic policies in place for the orderly and efficient instruction of classes, including laboratories, and use of academic resource or equipment.

2. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserved library materials, laboratory materials or other course related materials.
3. Failure to follow the instructor or proctor's test-taking instructions, including but not limited to not setting aside notes, books or study guides while the test is in progress, failing to sit in designated locations and/or leaving the classroom/test site without permission during a test.
4. Prevention of the convening, continuation or orderly conduct of any class, lab or class activity. Engaging in conduct that interferes with or disrupts university teaching, research or class activities such as making loud and distracting noises, repeatedly answering cell phones/text messaging or allowing pagers to beep, exhibiting erratic or irrational behavior, persisting in speaking without being recognized, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom or test site without authorization, and making physical threats or verbal insults to the faculty member, or other students and staff.
5. Falsification of student transcript or other academic records; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
6. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications of other university records.
7. Any action which may be deemed as unprofessional or inappropriate in the professional community of the discipline being studied.

#### *Harassment/Discrimination*

The University is committed to providing an educational and work environment that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual student and employee. Sul Ross State University does not discriminate on a person's race, color, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status or genetic information as defined by federal law, state statutes and system regulations.