



ANSC 5303 Special Topics (Beef cattle)
Department of Natural Sciences, Sul Ross State University
Spring 2026 – Course Syllabus

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Office: RAS 108

Office hours: **Online**, no classroom

Lecture location: Online

Time:

Course Description:

The course will be divided into the areas of history, breeding, feeding, and management of beef cattle under grazing. No Lab.

Course Objectives:

Provide the understanding of beef cattle management and production under grazing conditions.

Understand the beef cattle industry at state, national, and global levels.

Describe roles of major beef breeds and management concepts related to the industry.

Anticipate future directions of the beef cattle industry and potential impacts on production.

Attendance

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

No text Book:

Suggestions of publications will be given during the semester.

METHODS OF EVALUATION.

Your grade will be based on the points accumulated during lectures. Lecture exams will cover all material presented during lecture and will be multiple choice. 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 lectures.

Tentative exams:

Exam 1 April 2 100

Exam 2 April 16 100

Exam April 30 100

Final is optional

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 – 89.9%

C = 70 – 79.9%

D = 60 – 69.9%

F = <60%

Course Outline

History of the beef cattle industry in the USA

Common cattle terminology

Cow/calf production system and stockers

Cattle breeds important on rangelands

Nutrition of beef cattle under grazing conditions, focused on rangelands

Breeding alternatives

Beef cattle management programs under grazing

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

INSTRUCTOR'S POLICIES

Attendance

1. Attendance is expected! If a student is absent from lecture, 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 send 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 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.

Late/Missing Work/Extra Credit

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 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