

# Sustainable Ranch Management: A Practice of Science, Art, and Determination.

RCH 4101 Ranch Skills 1  
Spring 2024

## Professor:

Dr. Bonnie Warnock

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Office Hours: WSB 314A M 2:00-4:00; and RAS 101A Tuesday 2:00-4:00; Other times by appointment. Lonora can add you to my calendar. She can be reached at [lhunt@sulross.edu](mailto:lhunt@sulross.edu), 432 837 8201 or in RAS 101.

## Course description:

This course covers advanced skills necessary for successful ranch management, including communication, leadership, landscape level planning, long term sustainability planning and implementation of ranch improvements.

## Skills for RCH 4101:

1. Observation: You will be expected to make observations and draw conclusions about potential improvements at the SRSU ranch (Alpine and Sierra Blanca) or the O2 lease
2. Planning: You will need to create a plan for the semester and follow through on that plan
3. Budgeting: You will have a \$1500 budget for your personal project if it is done on SRSU property. If you are working on another property, you will need to get a max budget from the owner/operator of the property.
4. Purchasing: You will be responsible for making all purchases necessary following SRSU purchasing rules if it is SRSU funds and following any purchasing rules if you are working on a different property
5. Implementation: You will be expected to finish your project
6. Dependability: You will need to follow through on your word and do what you say you will do and be where you say you will be on time.
7. Time Management: You must make continuous progress on your project based on your timeline. You will lose points for procrastination and poor planning.
8. Communication: You will prepare and present a weekly report comprised of what you accomplished the previous week and what you plan to accomplish in the coming week. You will also need to include if you met the goals that you had set out in the previous report. If your plan was to be off and not make progress, that is fine but should be communicated in the weekly report.

## Required Text:

None

## Equipment:

You can use SRSU equipment for your projects if it is on SRSU property. You will be expected to follow all instructions and safety rules for equipment use.

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## Learning objectives:

1. Students will learn how to communicate effectively with a supervisor (Communications Skills and Interpersonal skills)
2. Students will learn the steps of project management and implementation (Functional Areas and Analytical/Critical Thinking)
3. Students will develop and apply personal skills such as time management as they work on project implementation (Functional Areas).

## Program Learning Outcomes for B.S. in Agriculture:

1. Students will demonstrate basic skills of analyzing and interpreting research-based information;
2. Students will apply critical thinking skills.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate through written, spoken and graphic media.

## Marketable Skills for B.S. in Agriculture:

1. Students demonstrate understanding of the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making;
2. Students use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions and approaches to problems;
3. Students identify complex problems and review related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions
- 4.

The Sustainable Ranch Management Program at Sul Ross State University has identified the following student learning outcomes (SLOs) for the program:

1. Students will be able to identify and apply the principal concepts, ideas, skills, and practices in the multiple areas of ranch management. (*Functional Areas*)
2. Students will be able to understand and apply the relevant theories and principles associated with the economics of the ranching industry and use relevant technical information to understand trends and make decisions. (*Economics and Business*)
3. Students will be able to evaluate the natural environment of a ranch or land area and make decisions with an ecosystem approach (*Ecology*)
4. Students will be able to recognize social, legal and ethical principles in ranching and apply them to decision making. (*Social/Legal/Ethical Principles*)
5. Students will be able to employ appropriate quantitative methods, qualitative methods, and physical skills to support daily operations and decisions. (*Technical Skills*)
6. Students will be able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. (*Communication Skills*)
7. Students will be able to demonstrate analytical and critical-thinking skills in the context of decision making. (*Analytical/Critical-Thinking Skills*)
8. Students will be able to demonstrate effective interpersonal skills, leadership ability, and the ability to work successfully in teams. (*Interpersonal Skills*)

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## Class Organization:

### **Absence Policy**

You should log into BB on a weekly basis to submit your report. This will constitute attendance in the class. I may, at my discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. Non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences.

### **ADA Statement**

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartze@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartze@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **Counseling**

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/sulross). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

### **Libraries**

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/](http://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](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](http://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

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### Grades:

Weekly Reports	100 points
Project Plan	100 points
Timely progress	50 points
Budgeting and Purchasing	50 points
Final Project Completion and final meeting	100 points

### Grade assignment:

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

Class Projects: You will be completing one project this semester. The project will have several different components and will be focused on developing personal skills.

### Project Details:

You must first identify a project that needs to be done that is within your technical skill set or is a technical skill that you can learn and then implement during the semester.

The project must be able to be completed with a \$1500 budget if it is on SRSU property. If the project is not on SRSU property, you will need to include a signed statement from the landowner or responsible party with approval for your budget amount.

No you will not be paid for your labor, your labor is time spent completing the class just like you spend time completing homework for any other class.

Once you have identified the project you must complete a project plan with estimated budget and a timeline of activities. The project must take a minimum of 15 hours to complete. You will need to report hours in your weekly reports. Weekly reports will be uploaded to Blackboard each week.

Once your plan and timeline are approved, you will then start with project implementation. You will have access to SRSU equipment, if you are working on SRSU property, but you will need to purchase supplies. If you need to travel to pick up supplies, you will be reimbursed for travel at the state rate. This must be included as part of your budget. As you continue through the project you can make necessary adjustments to your project plan. Any changes must be reported in your weekly reports.

Once your project is completed, the project will be graded based on its value to the program or ranch, implementation based on your plan, on time and on budget, and quality of work. This project will be due by finals week. You can accelerate your project and complete it early if you would like.