

NRM 3305 – 001 & L01

Wildland Plants

Fall 2026

Professors:

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Course description:

This course provides an in-depth introduction to botany, specifically in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. Students will gain the knowledge for general botany through a functional approach. Plant anatomy and physiology with guide students in learning how to correctly identify plant species characteristics from understanding taxonomy of tribal-families and genera. Furthermore, emphasis will be made on the application of plants species for natural resource management strategies.

Class meetings:

The class will be held as twice a week from 3:00 pm to 4:50 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tentative Course Outline:

First Day-Aug 25th & 27th: *Intro & Syllabus, Plant Anatomy Pt.1*

W2-Aug 31st & Sept 3rd: *Plant Anatomy Pt.2 & 3, Final project explanation, Plants Outside*

W3- Sept 8th & 10th: *Taxonomy, Plant Anatomy Hunt, Roadsides - Set 1*

W4- Sept 15th & 17th: *Photosynthesis and Nutrition, Set 1 quiz, Rocky Slopes - Set 2*

W5- Sept 22nd & 24th: *Plants of the Past, Set 2 quiz, Mountains & Oaks - Set 3*

TNC Davis mountain trip OR Madera Canyon Trip - TBD

W6- Sept 29th & Oct 1st: *Vegetation Distribution in North America,*

Set 3 quiz, Desert Grassland I - Set 4

W7- Oct 6th & 8th: *Agrostology Pt. 1, Set 4 quiz, Desert Grassland II - Set 5*

Mimms Ranch trip - TBD

W8- Oct 13th & 15th: *Restoration with Plants, Set 5 quiz*

W9- Oct 20th & 22nd: *Midterms: Lecture and Plant ID*

W10- Oct 27th & 29th: *Final Project Workshop, Desert Grassland III - Set 6*

W11- Nov 3rd & 5th: *Specalized Plant Types, Set 6 quiz, Hot Desert Shrub I - Set 7*

W12- Nov 10th & 12th: *Life on the Rio Grande, Set 7 quiz, Hot Desert Shrub II - Set 8*

Nine-Point Mesa/Rio Grande Trip - TBD

W13- Nov 17th & Nov 19th: *Wildlands Plants and Our Future, Set 8 quiz, Riparian - Set 9*

W14- Nov 24th: *Set 9 quiz, THANKGIVING BREAK (November 25-27)*

W15- Dec 1st: *Last day of class! **FINAL PROJECT DUE!***

TBD – Final Exams: Lecture and Lab

Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn how to identify common Trans-Pecos vegetation and relate them to ecological conditions of the landscape they are living on.
2. Students will gain a functional foundation of general botany to better understand plant's role in ecology.
3. Students will be able to evaluate Texas landscapes by which plants they identify around them and can make applicable management decisions based on current vegetation states.

Marketable Skills:

1. Students will develop skills in taxonomy and botany
2. Learning through field-days in an adult learning framework
3. Decision making and analysis of practices given vegetative context

Required Text:

None.

Class Organization

1. 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.
2. 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 any accommodation action.
3. Please let me know at the first of the class if you have any health issues that may impact your participation during outside class participation.

Grades:

Points Breakdown:

<u>Lecture/lab</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Worth</u>
Lecture	Attendance @12 points/lecture	180
Lecture	Midterm Exam	110
Lecture	Final Exam	110
Lab	10 Quizzes @ 20 points each	200
Lab	Midterm Exam	50
Lab	Final Project	150
Total		800

Lab Optional Final Comprehensive Exam = 200 points; This will replace your accumulated quiz scores if you want to take it. The highest grade from either total quiz points or the Lab Final exam can be chosen for your grade.

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.