RNG 241 Syllabus and Schedule

Rangeland Ecology and Management
Winter 2009

Part 1 consists of the course syllabus. In the syllabus you will find important information regarding the scope and content of the course. Read it thoroughly!

Part 2 consists of the course schedule. In the schedule you will find a list of all the assigned tasks and their due dates. Read it thoroughly and make notes if needed!

PART 1. SYLLABUS

Instructor:

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Note - The best mode of contacting me is by e-mail.

Introduction:

Rangelands are the most prevalent land type in the world! In the United States, 60 percent of the 17 states west of the 96th meridian are rangelands. RNG 241 serves as an introduction course to the larger field of natural resource management. This is because rangeland management is ecology based. Some of the management aspects include: soil, plants, water, wildlife, fisheries, timber, recreation, and grazing. Rangeland management is also tied to the social and political aspects of natural resource policy and law.

Course Objectives:

1. Acquaint students with rangeland ecosystems, emphasizing on physical characteristics and ecological processes

2. Explore the diversity and management of rangelands in the United States

3. Examine issues in rangeland management within a historical, social, and political context

4. Introduce the management of rangeland ecosystems within the context of two approaches: ecological and economical
Course Policies:

1. Course Schedule

This course requires a great deal of self-motivation and discipline. The course schedule delineates what readings and work should be completed each week. Work can be completed ahead of schedule, but no late work or late exams will be accepted. No exceptions! Discussion board assignments are due Monday 8am, Pacific Standard Time, each week. When homework assignments are given, they are due the following Monday at 8am, Pacific Standard Time. With this in mind, I strongly suggest that you plan your work so that you are on or ahead of schedule at all times.

2. Reading Assignments

Reading Assignments for this class are divided between the textbook and a selection of web readings I will make available to you on the course blackboard website. You are responsible for doing readings in your textbook and online through blackboard. Weekly readings are specified in the course schedule. You may want to print copies of the online readings.

For those of you who have not previously taken an online course, you may begin to feel that there is a great deal of reading required for this course. Please note that the syllabus was constructed on the basis of a three credit course. In a “normal” campus setting, a three credit course is one in which the class would meet for three hours a week. The standard formula for establishing workloads is that students should spend at least 2 hours outside class for each hour in the classroom. Since you will not be in a classroom, you should plan on spending approximately 9 hours a week reading and working on this course. Some words of warning: Make sure you keep up with the reading assignments. It is very easy to fall into the trap of requesting an incomplete in a distance course. I will grant incompletes by exception only.

3. Exam Dates

Midterms and the Final Exam are scheduled to be taken on specific dates; and I expect students to take them during these time frames, unless they have made specific arrangements with me to take the exams ahead of schedule.

4. Communication

Obviously, most of our communication will take place via e-mail. I will try diligently to respond to any message you send within 24 hours.

5. Course Material

Your grade will be based on two midterm exams, weekly discussion board assignments (a total of 10), two homework assignments, and a final examination. The two midterm exams will cover only the block of material presented prior to that test (not comprehensive). The final exam will be comprehensive. Exam questions will come from both the material on the web and from the textbook (see Textbook below).
6. Grading

Do all of your assignments.

**Course grades will be computed as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>300 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,000 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

930-1000 = A; 900-929 = A–; 880-899 = B+; 820-879 = B; 780-799 = C+; 720-779 = C; 700-719 = C–; 680-699 = D+; 620-679 = D; 600-619 = D–; 0-599 = F

7. Exam Structure

Exams will be taken online using blackboard. **Exams are to be taken on the dates specified in the course schedule.** Exams may include a mix of T/F, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay questions. The exams are open book/notes but are timed. This means that once you start taking the exam, you have an allotted number of minutes to complete it. Each exam will be clearly labeled with the allotted time. There are no proctors required for these exams. However, you will be responsible for ensuring that you do not go over the time limit allotted for each exam. **If you do not finish the test during the allotted amount of time, then points will be deducted for each minute that you go over the time limit. For each minute over the time limit, 4 points will be deducted from your final score.** Again, exams must be taken during the scheduled dates. For those of you wishing to take the exams early, I will work with you to schedule exams for an earlier date if your personal schedule does not permit you to take your exam according to the course schedule. **However, exams cannot be taken late! Since I post the exam answers on blackboard, I will not permit exams to be taken late. Do not miss an exam. Plan ahead.** So, if you have a scheduling conflict let me know in advance of the exam, so you can take the exam early. More information specific to individual exams will be provided in advance to each exam.

8. Textbook

Your textbook is:


ISBN 0-13-047475-4

The textbook is available from the OSU bookstore (800-595-0357) as well as from various online booksellers. Do not get behind with your readings.
9. **Student Conduct**

This course conforms to the Oregon State University Administrative Rules Relating to Student Conduct.

10. **Submitting Assignments**

The 2 homework assignments must be submitted directly to me by email. Email your assignments (as attachments) to me at: matneyc@onid.orst.edu

**Course Navigation Tips:**

From the **Course Homepage in Blackboard**, the predominate buttons you will need to access for this course are:
- Announcements
- Information
- Web Readings
- HW Assignments
- Discussion Board
- Exams

Any time I send out an announcement to the class, it can be viewed through the “Announcements” button.

The syllabus and schedule is accessed through the "Information" button. Be sure to print and be aware of this document as it is your road map to a successful completion of this course.

Weekly Readings are detailed and accessed through the “Web Readings” button. Here, there will be a folder for each week. In each folder will be information telling you what you need to read. You will have two different types of readings to do: textbook and web. The web readings I make available from the weekly reading folder, and for the textbook readings, the pages to be read are listed in the course schedule.

Homework Assignments are detailed and accessed through the “HW Assignments” button. Due dates are posted in the course schedule.

Discussion Board Assignments are detailed and accessed through the “Discussion Board” button. Due dates are posted in the course schedule.

Exams are accessed through the “Exams” button. Exam dates are posted in the course schedule.
PART 2. COURSE SCHEDULE

REMEMBER: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!!!

WEEK 1 (Monday January 5 – Sunday January 11)

Subjects: Rangeland and Man
          The History of Rangeland Management

Readings:
Textbook: Chapter 1 (p. 1-27) and Chapter 2 (p. 29-48)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 1

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday January 12, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 2 (Monday January 12– Sunday January 18)

Subjects: The Physical Characteristics of Rangelands
          North American Rangeland Types

Readings:
Textbook: Chapter 3 (p. 51-76) and Chapter 4 (p. 78-119)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 2

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Tuesday January 20, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)
WEEK 3 (Tuesday January 20 – Sunday January 25)

Subjects:  Rangeland Plant Physiology

Readings:
Textbook: Chapter 5 (p. 123-142)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 3

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board

Homework Assignment #1 – LEARNING NORTH AMERICAN RANGELANDS
(Both Assignments Due by Monday January 26, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 4 (Monday January 26 – Sunday February 1)

Midterm Exam #1
Midterm Exam #1 covers course material from weeks 1, 2, and 3. The Exam can be taken anytime online through Blackboard between Monday January 26th at 8am, Pacific Standard Time and Sunday February 1st at 10:30pm, Pacific Standard Time. You have 90 minutes to complete the Exam. No late exams will be accepted. Any exam completed after Sunday February 1st at Midnight, Pacific Standard Time will be considered late.

Subjects:  Rangeland Animal Nutrition

Readings:
Textbook: Chapter 11 (p. 325-362)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 4

Assignment:
Take Midterm Exam #1 (see information above on this page)

Weekly Discussion Board  (Due by Monday February 2, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)
WEEK 5 (Monday February 2 – Sunday February 8)

Subjects:  Rangeland Ecology  
           Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring

Readings:
   Textbook: Chapter 6 (p. 146-180) and Chapter 7 (p. 186-212)

   Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 5

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday February 9, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 6 (Monday February 9 – Sunday February 15)

Subjects:  Rangeland Herbivore Stocking Rates  
           Rangeland Grazing/Browsing Management Methods

Readings:
   Textbook: Chapter 8 (p. 216-254) and Chapter 9 (p. 261-300)

   Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 6

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday February 16, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)
WEEK 7 (Monday February 16 – Sunday February 22)

Subjects:  
Managing Livestock Distribution  
Managing Livestock Production

Readings:  
Textbook: Chapter 10 (p. 306-322) and Chapter 13 (p. 418-452)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 7

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board

Homework Assignment #2 – Stocking Rates and Management Plan

(Both Assignments Due by Monday February 23, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 8 (Monday February 23 – Sunday March 1)

Midterm Exam #2
Midterm Exam #2 covers course material from weeks 4, 5, 6, and 7. The Exam can be taken anytime online through Blackboard between Monday February 23rd at 8am, Pacific Standard Time and Sunday March 1st at 10:30pm, Pacific Standard Time. You have 90 minutes to complete the Exam. No late exams will be accepted. Any exam completed after midnight Sunday March 1st, Pacific Standard Time will be considered late.

Subjects:  
Manipulating Rangeland Vegetation  
Managing Rangelands for Multiple-use

Readings:  
Textbook: Chapter 15 (p. 505-543) and Chapter 12 (p. 371-411)

Online: All of the readings in folder WEEK 8

Assignment:
Take Midterm Exam #2 (see above information on this page)

Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday March 2, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)
WEEK 9 (Monday March 2 – Sunday March 8)

Subjects:  Wildlife Management
           Managing Rangelands in Developing Countries

Readings:
   Textbook: Ch. 14 (p. 456-495, excluding p.478-483) and Ch. 16 (p. 548-568)
   Online:  All of the readings in folder WEEK 9

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday March 9, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 10 (Monday March 9 – Sunday March 15)

Subjects:  Management Planning, Technology, and the Future

Readings:
   Textbook: Ch. 17 (p. 571-588)
   Online:  No web readings this week!  Study for next week’s final exam!

Assignment:
Weekly Discussion Board (Due by Monday March 16, 8am, Pacific Standard Time)

WEEK 11 (Monday March 16 – Friday March 20)

Final Exam
The Final Exam covers all of the course material. The Exam can be taken anytime
online through Blackboard between Monday March 16 at 8am, Pacific Standard
Time and Friday March 20 at 8pm, Pacific Standard Time. You have 120 minutes (2
hours) to complete the Exam. No late exams will be accepted. Any exam completed
after 10pm Friday March 20, Pacific Standard Time will be considered late.