

PVAMU Course Syllabus -- Spring 2018
Natural Resource Conservation Management

Department of	Agriculture, Nutrition & Human Ecology	College of	Agriculture and Human Sciences
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Office Hours:	Mon, Tues, Wed: 9:00 - 10:00AM; Fri: 10:00 - 12:00PM; 1:00 - 4:00PM		
Virtual Office Hours:			
Course Location:	Gilchrist Eng Bldg: – Room 109; (Lec); AgBus Bldg: - Room 418 (Lab)		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tues: 10:11:50 AM; Thur – 10:00 - 11:50 AM		
Course Abbreviation and Number:	AGRO 2613		
Catalog Description:	Natural Resource Conservation Management. (2-2) Credit 3 semester hours. Ecological approach to basic conservation principles, concepts and techniques underlying the management and uses of natural resources that is both efficient and sustainable.		
Prerequisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Required Text:	Title: Soil and Water Conservation for Productivity and Environmental Protection. Authors: Frederick R. Troeh, J. Arthur Hobbs and Roy L. Donahue. Edition: 4 th ; Copyright 2004 Publisher: Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458 ISBN: 0-13-096807-2		
Recommended Text:	None		
Access to Learning Resources:	PVAMU Library: phone: (936) 261-1500; web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/ University Bookstore: phone: (936) 261-1990; web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d		
Course Goals or Overview:	To learn the ecological approach to basic conservation principles, concepts and techniques underlying the management and uses of natural resources that is both efficient and sustainable.		
Course Objectives/Accrediting Body (NCATE, ABET, NAAB, etc...) Standards Met: (standards will depend on the course)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide students with the knowledge of the scientific, technological, and economic aspects of soil with strong interest in soil quality and sustainability, and placing greater emphasis on environmental quality. 2. To understand tillage systems, cropping systems, soil drainage, irrigation and reclamation, erosion, and sedimentation, pastureland, rangeland, and forestland in relation to conservation and management. 		

3. To understand the nature, value and function of soils that will help us use them wisely; due to increasing human population and dwindling resources for agricultural input, the wise use of soils will be even more critical in the years to come.				
At the end of this course, the student will				
		Alignment with Academic Program		Alignment with Core Curriculum
1	Gain a better understanding of the soil and water resources for the production of food, fiber, and other necessities of life and how to conserve them scientifically, technologically and economically.			
2	Acquire knowledge of the fact that soils and water are valuable commodities that have to be conserved to sustain life on this planet			
3	Learn that the purpose of soil conservation is not merely to preserve the soil, but to maintain its productive capacity while using it.			
4	Gain valuable information regarding the various farming operations in relation to conservation and management.			

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. *Note: See Program Outcomes in True Outcomes*

Exams – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

Exercises – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material

Projects – web development assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented course material

Class Participation – daily attendance and participation in class discussions

(instruments will vary slightly depending on the course)

Grading Matrix *(points will vary according to instructor’s grading system)*

Instruments	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Three Major Exams	15 each	45
Assignment/Quizzes	10	10
PowerPoint Presentation	10	10
Lab/Class Participation/ Attendance	15	15
Final Exam	20	20
Total:		100

Grade Determination:

- A = 90 – 100 pts;
- B = 80 – 89 pts;
- C = 70 – 79 pts;
- D = 60 – 69 pts;
- F = 0 – 59 pts or below

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:	
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course	
Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
Exams	Written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
Exercises	Written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material
Projects/ PPT	Web development assignments designed to measure ability to apply presented course material
Labs	Selected labs designed to reinforced lectures and allow for practical experiences
Class Participation	Daily attendance and participation in class discussions

COURSE CONTENTS (TOPICS)**TOPICS**

1. Soil Surveys as a Basis for Land Use Planning
 - Soil Surveys
 - Soil Map Unit Interpretations
 - Managing Land
2. Vegetating Drastically Disturbed Areas
 - Construction Sites
 - Mined Areas and Mine Spoils
 - Areas of High Erosion Hazard
3. Pastureland, Rangeland, and Forestland Management
 - Pastureland, Rangeland, and Forestland
 - Pastureland Management
 - Rangeland Management
 - Forestland Management
4. Water Conservation
 - The water cycle
 - What is drought?

- Combating drought
- 5. Soil Drainage
 - Value of undrained wetlands
 - Occurrence of wetlands
 - Characteristics of wet soils
- 6. Irrigation and Reclamation
 - Effects of irrigation
 - Selecting land for irrigation
 - Land reclamation
- 7. Soil Pollution
 - Concern about pollution
 - Sources of pollutants
 - People-related wastes
- 8. Water Quality and Pollution
 - The Earth's water supply
 - Water pollutants
 - Acidification of water
 - Ground water contamination
- 9. Economics of Soil and Water Conservation
 - Benefits from soil and water conservation
 - Costs of conservation practices
 - Paying for soil and water conservation
 - Conservation incentives
- 10. Soil and Water Conservation Agencies in the United States
 - Early work on Soil and Water Conservation
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - Other Federal Conservation Agencies
- 11. Soil and Water Conservation Around the World
 - Worldwide Needs for Soil and Water Conservation
 - Transfer of Conservation Technology
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - Soil and Water Conservation in Selected Areas

Submission of Assignments:

Observe deadlines for submitting assignments and term papers to avoid a 10 % penalty for each.

Formatting Documents:

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

- Anyone caught cheating during an examination will get a **ZERO** for that examination.

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/> Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures**Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):**

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 accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a 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 instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: 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 words, 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.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.