

## **Rangeland Ecology**

**NRSM 462**

### **Instructor Information**

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### **Course description**

We will discuss the ecological principles and processes that drive the structure and function of rangeland ecosystems. We will focus on the intersections of plant, animal, ecosystem, and landscape ecology. We will occasionally weave in discussions of management to understand how rangeland dynamics contribute and respond to differing management paradigms.

### **Goals**

This course will improve your understanding of rangeland dynamics. You will gain appreciation for the complexity of rangeland ecosystems and it will help you see the value of using ecological processes to guide management action.

### **Outcomes**

Students will be able to critically examine theories of rangeland ecology and effectively communicate concepts orally and in writing.

### **Texts**

Required textbook: The Ecology of Plants

Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester. We will also use the current literature for discussions of many topics. While some additional readings will be supplied, students will be expected to know how to search for and access topics of interest.

### **Evaluation**

- Exam (100 points; 25%)
- Final exam (100 points; 25%)
- Research proposal (100 points; 25%)
- Assignments (100 points; 25%)

Grading will be on a scale of: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; less than 60% = F

### **Exams**

Two exams will be given during the semester—the one with the lowest grade will be dropped. A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of the semester.

### **Research proposal**

Each student will develop a research proposal examining a topic relevant to rangeland ecology. This will require extensive literature review and critical thinking.

### **Assignments**

An assignment will be given every week. These may include short writings, work for the research proposal, quizzes, etc.

### **Graduate student supplement**

Graduate students may take this course for graduate credit. We will meet to determine additional requirements for graduate credit.

### **Honesty, respect, and other things**

Students and instructors are expected to be honest in all course activities, including exams and assignments. Disrespectful actions, behavior, conversations, and language will not be tolerated. Please read, understand, and adhere to the student conduct code ([Student Conduct Code](#)). Students needing special assistance will need to contact me during the first week of class.