

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Sam Houston State University

Course Description and Syllabus

DEPARTMENT:	Agricultural Sciences
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:	PLSC 4383 - Range Management (Online)
SEMESTER:	Spring 2018
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Kyle J. Stutts
OFFICE LOCATION:	Fred Pirkle Engineering Technology Center 450 D
TELEPHONE:	936-294-1219 (office)
EMAIL:	stutts@shsu.edu
OFFICE HOURS:	As posted or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the science of range management, coupling the latest concepts and technology with proven traditional approaches. Students will learn fundamental topics such as range plant physiology, range plant ecology, rangeland stocking rate considerations, and grazing system selection. Students will also learn multiple use management practices that are used to provide society with meat, water, wildlife, and recreational opportunities on a sustained basis from lands unsuited for permanent civilization.

REFERENCE AND TEXTBOOK:

- Range Management Principles and Practices. Holechek, Pieper, and Herbel. 6th ed. Pearson-Prentice Hall, NJ.
- Texas Range Plants. Hatch and Pluhar. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- High Speed Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to SHSU Online/Blackboard
- Web camera - there may be an integrated web camera on your computer, especially laptops, but if not, you will need to purchase one or borrow one for exams/quizzes

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system SHSU Blackboard. You will use your SHSU username and password to login to the course from the SHSU homepage (<http://www.shsu.edu/>). Once you are on the homepage, select 'Campus Tools,' then select 'Blackboard.' You will then be prompted to log-in using your SHSU username and password. Once the SHSU Blackboard page has loaded, select PLSC 4383 to access course materials and assignments.

In SHSU Blackboard, you will access online lessons, course materials, and resources. At scheduled dates and times throughout the semester, you will submit homework and writing assignments online, and you will complete quizzes and exams online.

EXAMS AND GRADING PLAN:

Letter grades will be determined based upon the grades received on four (4) exams, writing assignments, quizzes, and homework assignments.

Grade distributions will be based upon the following scale:

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

ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through SHSU Blackboard unless otherwise instructed. Be sure to pay close attention to **deadlines**—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. All assignments will be submitted using **Turn It In** and will be evaluated for plagiarism. **Do your own work!**

This is an online course and technical difficulties could occur, however, **technical difficulties are not a legitimate excuse** for missing a deadline/due date. It is your responsibility to complete assignments in a timely manner and to be prepared to deal with technical problems if they occur. **Do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment, and have a “back-up” plan in place in case you have problems.**

Need Help?

Technical Assistance

The team at SHSU Online provides technical support for Blackboard through a variety of methods.

Website: [Technical Support](http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support) <http://distance.shsu.edu/tech-support>

Phone: 936-294-2780 – or – toll free 1-877-759-2232

Email: blackboard@shsu.edu or you can chat with a technician while inside your Blackboard course.

Below are some helpful resources if you wish to explore on your own.

- New students should start with the [Online Student Orientation](http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/orientation.html) <http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/orientation.html>
- A list of other helpful services can be found on the [Student Resources](http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/resources.html) page <http://distance.shsu.edu/current-students/resources.html>
- Blackboard Learn™ provides a variety of video tutorials at [Student Videos](https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos/Student_Videos) https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos/Student_Videos

For questions about your class schedule, e-mail account, or technology assistance call IT@Sam at (936) 294-1950 or e-mail helpdesk@shsu.edu

For course-related questions, contact your course instructor.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Cheating WILL NOT be tolerated. Students caught cheating on an exam or assignment will be given a zero (0) for the exam or assignment grade and a letter will be written to the student's file.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be permitted to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams and/or assignments.

SHSU WRITING CENTER:

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, and 2 - 7 p.m. on Sunday. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one at any stage of the writing process (brainstorming, generating a draft, organizing a draft, or revising a draft) for any written assignment. The Writing Center operates on an appointment system, so please call (936) 294-3680 to schedule a session with a writing tutor.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. Rangeland and Man
- II. Range Management History
- III. Rangeland Physical Characteristics
- IV. Description of Rangeland Types
- V. Vegetational Areas of Texas

- VI. Range Plant Classification
- VII. Grass Morphology
- VIII. Forb and Shrub Morphology
- IX. Range Plant Physiology
- X. Range Ecology
- XI. Range Inventory and Monitoring
- XII. Considerations Concerning Stocking Rates
- XIII. Selection of Grazing Methods
- XIV. Methods of Improving Livestock Distribution
- XV. Range Animal Nutrition
- XVI. Range Management for Multiple Use
- XVII. Range Livestock Production
- XVIII. Range Wildlife Management

HOMEWORK, QUIZ, AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

- Section 1 – Tuesday, February 6, 2018
- Section 2 – Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Section 3 – Tuesday, April 3, 2018
- Section 4 – Tuesday, May 1, 2018

**DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
CHECK ONLINE FREQUENTLY FOR
ANY CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENTS
OR DUE DATES.**

EXAM DUE DATES:

- Section 1 – Wednesday, February 7, 2018
- Section 2 – Wednesday, March 7, 2018
- Section 3 – Wednesday, April 4, 2018
- Section 4 – Wednesday, May 2, 2018

All assignments are due before midnight on the due date.