ESSM Ecosystem Science & Mgmt (ESSM)

ESSM 102 Introduction to Natural Resources and Ecosystem Management
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Introduction to natural resources and ecosystem system approach to wildland management; survey of the field of natural resources and related industries.

ESSM 201 Exploring Ecosystem Science and Management
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Exploration of knowledge, skills and abilities required for varied careers within ecosystem science and management; development of a professional portfolio and résumé; exploration of career options through team approach; conduct one service project.

ESSM 203 Forest Trees of North America
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
(FORE 1314) Forest Trees of North America. Taxonomy, phylogeny, and identification of the important forest trees of North America and their ecological and social uses and benefits.
Prerequisites: BIOL 101, BIOL 107, BIOL 111 or BIOL 113 and BIOL 123 or equivalent.

ESSM 291 Research
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in ecosystem science and management. May be repeated 2 times for credit.
Prerequisites: Freshman or sophomore classification and approval of instructor.

ESSM 300 Field Studies in Forest Ecosystems
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 6 Lab Hours.
Field-oriented focus on forest ecosystem science and management; problem-solve management questions through data collection and team-based research; investigate the relationships between landowner objectives, mensuration, silviculture, ecology, soils, and regeneration-focused harvesting systems; foster the development of student-faculty relationships; enhance professional knowledge and skills.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 301 Wildland Watershed Management
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Elements of watershed management and principles and practices of wildland management for protection, maintenance and improvement of water resource values.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 302 Wildland Plants of North America
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Familiarization with the distribution and economic value of important wildland plants in Texas and North America and fundamentals of sight identification of these plants; plant collection required.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 303 Agrostology
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 6 Lab Hours.
Classification and identification of grasses based on macro- and micromorphological variations of spikelets; interpretation of spikelet variation and use of diagnostic keys to identify important species of North America; a grass collection required.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 304 Rangeland Plant Taxonomy
Credits 4. 2 Lecture Hours. 6 Lab Hours.
Interpretation of plant morphology for keying and identification of important flowering rangeland plants; vegetative and floral characters for important plant families including toxic compounds affecting domestic livestock. Plant collection required.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 305 Watershed Analysis and Planning
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Provide an integrated framework for watershed planning that addresses the related biophysical, social and economic issues; comprehensive in scope and approach giving students the tools and techniques for developing sound watershed management policy and practice; water issues, problems and regulations for Texas.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

ESSM 306 Plant Functional Ecology and Adaptation
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Investigation of physiological mechanisms influencing ecological patterns and processes, including plant acclimation and adaptation in contrasting habitats; abiotic controls on species productivity and distribution; underlying genetic and evolutionary mechanisms contributing to the occurrence of specific genotypes and phenotypes in unique environments.
Prerequisites: RENR 205, any BIOL course, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 307 Forest Protection
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Destructive agents in forestry as related to importance, identification, cause, extent of losses and protective measures.
Prerequisites: RENR 205, AGEC 105 or equivalent, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 308 Fundamentals of Environmental Decision-Making
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Introduction to environmental issues in natural resources management; fundamental principles and methods for understanding biosocial interdependencies in complex environmental issues; use of computer-aided group decision-making techniques to develop cooperative strategies for resolving local or global environmental issues.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 309 Forest Ecology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Life history and general characteristics of trees; structure and function of forest ecosystems; fundamental principles of forest tree physiology and ecology applied to an analysis of tree growth in relation to environmental factors and present day forest management; global changes and forests.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 310 Forest Tree Improvement and Regeneration
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Genetic improvement or manipulation of forest trees through breeding or transformation; regeneration of forests including reproduction, nursery production, stand establishment, natural regeneration and problems affecting regeneration.
Prerequisites: BIOL 101, BIOL 113 or equivalent; junior or senior classification.
ESSM 311 Biogeochemistry and Global Change  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
Framework for understanding biogeochemical cycles, their significance at both global and ecosystem levels of organization, and their contemporary relevance to ecosystem science and management.  
**Prerequisites:** RENR 205, RENR 215, any BIOL and/or CHEM course, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 313 Vegetation Sampling Methods and Designs in Ecosystems  
**Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**  
Basis for vegetation sampling in ecosystems; methods for conducting sampling; selection of sampling unit appropriate for vegetation type; sampling statistics; mean comparisons; regression analysis; sampling design principles; development of sampling plan; presentation and interpretation of sampling data.  
**Prerequisites:** Any MATH course satisfying university core curriculum, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 314 Principles of Rangeland Management Around the World  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
Basic knowledge of world rangeland ecosystems, how these systems are managed in diverse cultural settings; principles of underlying ecological processes influenced by various land management practices; foster understanding of the values that people in different countries place on rangeland resources; use of these values to enhance geologically sustainable and socially acceptable rangeland management practices.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 315 Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring  
**Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.**  
Theory and methods to inventory rangeland vegetation; sampling design; analysis of inventory data; interpretation of sampling data; preparation of a technical report; presentation of inventory data in text, tables, and graphs using the style of the Rangeland Ecology and Management discipline.  
**Prerequisites:** ESM 313, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 316 Range Ecology  
**Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**  
Organization and distribution of rangeland ecosystems of the world, with emphasis on North America; community dynamics and functions stressed including biotic history, succession, disturbance regimes, competitive interactions, herbivory, energy flow and nutrient cycling; conservation of rangeland resources.  
**Prerequisites:** RENR 205, RENR 215, ESSM 302, ESSM 314, ESSM 315, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 317 Vegetation Management  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
Familiarization with practices that cause changes in rangeland vegetation composition for multiple uses; understanding of criteria for range improvement practices; comparison of expected responses of livestock forage production, watershed parameters and wildlife to vegetation changes following range improvements; systems concept for planning, analysis and implementation of range improvement practices.  
**Prerequisites:** ESSM 314, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 318 Coupled Social and Ecological Systems  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
Resilience-based stewardship of social-ecological systems; ecological concepts of resilience, sustainability, ecosystem services, and vulnerability; investigation of linkages among social and ecological system components; contribution to sustainability and provisioning of ecosystem services; evaluation of multiple knowledge sources as the basis for adaptive ecosystem management.  
**Prerequisites:** RENR 205, AGEC 105 or equivalent, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 319 Principles of Forestry  
**Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.**  
Theory and practice of forestry in controlling forest establishment, composition, structure and growth; principles of natural and artificial regeneration; intermediate cultural operations; silvicultural systems; use and control of fire in forests; principles of sustainable stand management.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 320 Ecosystem Restoration and Management  
**Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.**  
A basic conceptual framework for restoration ecology and ecological restoration; major principles of ecology related to practical problems confronting humankind, such as, environmental pollution and degradation, exotic species invasions, land use and management trade-offs and consequences; importance of biological diversity.  
**Prerequisite:** RENR 205, RENR 215 or equivalent, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 321 Geographic Information Systems for Resource Management  
**Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.**  
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) approach to solving spatial problems and managing natural resources, including the acquisition, management, manipulation, analysis, and mapping of spatial and non-spatial databases; identification of natural and relevant features from various data sources; integration of relevant technologies and data; extensive use of GIS software to solve real-world problems. Only one of the following will satisfy the requirements for a degree: ESSM 351/RENR 405, RENR 405/ESSM 351, ESSM 651, BAEN 651/ESSM 651 and RENR 651.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.  
**Cross Listing:** RENR 405/ESSM 351.

ESSM 398 Interpretation of Aerial Photographs  
**Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.**  
Identification and evaluation of natural and cultural features on aerial photographs; methods for extracting information concerning land use, vegetative cover, surface and structural features, urban/industrial patterns and archaeological sites.  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.
ESSM 404 Changing Natural Resource Policy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Process through which environmental policies are changed; study theories of social and political change; teams use theories with their original research on environmental policy problems to create and implement plans for changing environmental policies in their own communities.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 405 Forest Resource Assessment and Management
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 4 Lab Hours.
Integration of biophysical, economic and social factors in forest resource analysis, management planning and decision making; applications of interdisciplinary knowledge and multiple-use principles to practical forest management problems.
Prerequisite: Senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 406 Natural Resources Policy
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Natural resources and forest policy development in the United States and review of current issues in forest and related natural resource policy.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 415 Range Analysis and Management Planning
Credits 4. 3 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Basic concepts and theories of range management systems. Resource inventory, analysis and management planning.
Prerequisites: AGEC 105 or ECON 202, ESSM 314, ESSM 317; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 416 Fire Ecology and Natural Resource Management
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Behavior and use of fire in the management of natural resources; principles underlying the role of weather, fuel characteristics and physical features of the environment related to the development and implementation of fire management plans.
Prerequisite: RENR 205 or equivalent, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 420 Ecological Restoration of Wetland and Riparian Systems
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
How wetland and riparian areas link terrestrial and aquatic systems and function hydrologically and ecologically within watersheds; integrated approaches for restoration of degraded wetland and riparian systems; improving water resources through vegetation management with a special interest in rangelands.
Prerequisites: RENR 205, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 427 Advanced Restoration Ecology
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
A dynamic discipline relying heavily on the fundamentals of ecology; practice translating and communicating key ecological concepts to advanced case studies in ecological restoration; enhance skills for professional applications.
Prerequisites: RENR 205, ESSM 320, ESSM 420; junior or senior classification.

ESSM 440 Wetland Delineation
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Covers the application of the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual in use by the Army Corps of Engineers (CORPS); field indicators of hydrophytic vegetation; hydric soils, wetland hydrology, methods for making jurisdictional determinations in non-disturbed and disturbed areas, recognition of problem wetlands and technical guidelines for wetlands.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification.

ESSM 444 Remote Sensing of the Environment
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Principles and techniques necessary for applying remote sensing to diverse issues in studying and mapping land uses and land covers of the terrestrial environment; emphasizes a hands-on learning approach with theoretical foundations and applications in both aerial and satellite remote sensing, using optical and lidar datasets.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 459 Programming for Spatial Data Applications
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 3 Lab Hours.
Programming for spatial data applications in general and for natural resources application in particular; basic programming concepts and constructs for the creation and manipulation of spatial data; automating of processes; programming behind spreadsheet and GIS applications.
Prerequisites: ESSM 351/RENR 405 or equivalent, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 461 Spatial Databases for Data Storage, Manipulation and Analysis
Credits 3. 1 Lecture Hour. 4 Lab Hours.
Relational databases and advanced geodatabase capabilities; types of geodatabases; Structured Query Language including joint-types and subqueries; ArcGIS Desktop Advanced.
Prerequisites: ESSM 459; junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 462/GEOG 462 Advanced GIS Analysis for Natural Resource Management
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Advanced topics in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to solve natural resource problems; manipulation of raster data types; three-dimensional modeling; emphasis on geoprocessing as it relates to applied projects, particularly with habitat suitability models; field and lab use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS); internet-based GIS modeling.
Prerequisites: ESSM 351/RENR 405 or AGSM 461/SPSC 461 or equivalent or approval of instructor; junior or senior classification.
Cross Listing: GEOG 462/ESSM 462.

ESSM 464 Spatial Project Management
Credits 3. 2 Lecture Hours. 2 Lab Hours.
Integration of key components of spatial project management to ensure a successful project implementation using life-cycle methodology and spatial project management; strategy and planning, requirements analysis, design, development, deployment, and operations and maintenance; term project working with real world data to develop and manage a spatial project for practical applications.
Prerequisites: ESSM 351/RENR 405 and ESSM 444, junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 480 Plant Identification and Undergraduate Range Management Exam Team Competitions
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Knowledge of plants morphology, identification and distribution for the profession of range management; knowledge of range management across the world; weekly tests to train on plant and range management knowledge. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification or approval of instructor.

ESSM 481 Senior Seminar
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Completion of professional e-portfolio, résumé and job application; exploration of job search, application, and interview; discipline competency exams; program evaluation.
Prerequisite: Senior classification in ESSM degree program.
ESSM 484 Internship
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.
Supervised experience program conducted in the student's area of specialization.
Prerequisite: Approval of student's advisor.

ESSM 485 Directed Studies
Credits 0 to 3. 0 to 3 Other Hours.
Individual study and research upon a selected range problem.
Prerequisite: Approval of student's advisor.

ESSM 489 Special Topics in...
Credits 1 to 4. 1 to 4 Lecture Hours. 0 to 4 Lab Hours.
Selected topics in an identified area of rangeland ecology and management. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: Approval of instructor.

ESSM 491 Research
Credits 0 to 4. 0 to 4 Other Hours.
Research conducted under the direction of faculty member in ecosystem science and management. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and approval of instructor.