

Course Changes

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GRADUATE STUDIES

Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a Change in Course
Undergraduate ♦ Graduate ♦ Professional

• Submit original form and attachments •

1. Request submitted by (Department or Program Name): Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

2. Course prefix, number and complete title of course: ESSM 601. Ecosystem Stewardship

Attach a brief supporting statement for changes made to items 3a thru 3d, and 6 below.

3. Change requested

a. Prerequisite(s): From: To:

b. Withdrawal (reason):

c. Cross-list with:

Cross-listed courses require the signature of both department heads.

d. Change in course title and description. Enter complete current course title and current course description in item 5; enter proposed course title and proposed course description in item 6. Complete item 7 for change in title.

e. Change in course number, contact hours (lab & lecture), and semester credit hours. Complete item 7. Attach a course syllabus.

4. For informational purposes only, please indicate course number if this course will be stacked:

5. Complete current course title and current catalog course description:

Ecosystem Stewardship. (2-0). Credit 2. Integrates ecological concepts of resilience, sustainability, transformation and vulnerability within a framework of ecosystem stewardship to support human wellbeing in a rapidly changing world; emphasizes social-ecological systems, adaptive management, and valuation of ecosystem services as mechanisms to strengthen management and policy recommendations supporting ecosystem stewardship. Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

6. Complete proposed course title and proposed catalog course description (not to exceed 50 words):

Ecosystem Stewardship. (3-0). Credit 3. Integrates ecological concepts of resilience, sustainability, transformation and vulnerability within a framework of ecosystem stewardship to support human wellbeing in a rapidly changing world; emphasizes social-ecological systems, adaptive management, and valuation of ecosystem services as mechanisms to strengthen management and policy recommendations supporting ecosystem stewardship. Prerequisite: Graduate classification.

7. a. As currently in course inventory:

Table with columns: Prefix, Course #, Title, Lect., Lab, SCH, CIP and Fund Code, Admin. Unit, FIC Code, Level. Row 1: ESSM 601 Ecosystem Stewardship, 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 3 0 5 0 6 0 0 0 5 0 8 4 1 0 0 3 6 3 2 6

b. Change to:

Table with columns: Prefix, Course #, Title, Lect., Lab, SCH, CIP and Fund Code, Admin. Unit, Acad. Year, FIC Code, Level. Row 1: ESSM 601 Ecosystem Stewardship, 0 3 0 0 0 3 0 3 0 5 0 6 0 0 0 5 0 8 4 1 1 4 - 1 5 0 0 3 6 3 2 6

Approval recommended by:

Dr. David Baltensperger (Signature) 1/6/14
Department Head or Program Chair (Type Name & Sign) Date

Dr. David Reed (Signature)
Chair, College Review Committee Date

Department Head or Program Chair (Type Name & Sign) Date
(if cross-listed course)

Dr. David Reed (Signature)
Dean of College Date

Submitted to Coordinating Board by:

Dr. Mark Zoran (Signature) 3/20/14
Chair, GC or UCC Date

Associate Director, Curricular Services

Date Effective Date

6 December 2013

Dr. Baltensperger, Interim Head
Ecosystem Science and Management
Campus

Dear Dr. Baltensperger:

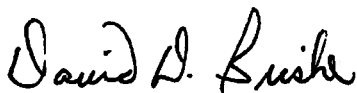
I am requesting that the graduate course ESSM 601 – Ecosystem Stewardship – be modified from two to three credit hours beginning fall semester 2014. This course has been taught for the second time in its modified format and the course has been well received by graduate students.

The course format is that of a reading - discussion format that requires students to prepare discussion questions from the reading material, lead course discussions, and engage in on-line summaries of weekly take home message with both the instructor and students in the class. Students are required to apply course concepts and frameworks to real life situations by developing two class projects.

The expanding subject matter content and course activities, both in and out of class, could be addressed more effectively if an additional contact hour was added.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



David D. Briske
Professor and Research Faculty Fellow

ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP
ESSM 601
FALL 2014

Objectives:

Complex and unprecedented changes within the earth system require that novel conceptual frameworks for sustainable development, alternative approaches of knowledge production, and innovative social institutions be developed and implemented to support effective stewardship. This course explores these emerging frameworks and their application within the context of resilience and social ecological systems. Adaptive management, social learning and flexible, decentralized institutions will be emphasized as key elements of effective stewardship. Post-normal science will be explored as a means of knowledge production to contend with conditions of high uncertainty, incomplete knowledge, and urgent, high-stakes decisions. The implementation and value of resilience-based stewardship will be investigated in diverse ecosystems including forests, rangelands, agro-ecosystems, oceans, and built environments.

Learning Outcomes:

Course completion will contribute to the following learning outcomes:

- Greater insight into the meaning and value of resilience, sustainability, and vulnerability frameworks.
- Describe the importance of social-ecological systems to continued provisioning of ecosystem services and human well-being.
- Appreciate the need for novel approaches and methodologies to contend with unprecedented changes in the Earth system.
- Understand the critical contributions of social institutions and governance systems to navigate change and promote stewardship.
- Learn how to apply and interpret resilience-based management in diverse ecological and social systems.
- Identify the skill sets and perspectives that are needed for successful application of 'resilience thinking'.

Instructor:

Dr. David D. Briske
Ecosystem Science and Management
Animal Industries Building (ANIN), Room 328
Phone: 979-845-5581
Email: dbriske@tamu.edu

Meeting Time and Location:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20 – 3:35 pm; Animal Industries Building, Room 133

Text and Reading Assignments:

Principles of Ecosystem Stewardship: Resilience-based Natural Resource Management in a Changing World. 2009. [eds.] Chapin F.S. III, Kofinas, G.P. and Folke, C. Springer Science (free on-line access through TAMU library). A reading list will be assigned for each subject matter section on the course eCampus page.

Prerequisites:

RENr 205 – Fundamentals of Ecology - or an equivalent ecological background.

Participation Rubric:

Written questions submitted for class discussion and verbal responses in-class are intended to address the central themes of the reading, stimulate group discussion, and promote greater understanding of the content. On-line discussions are to clarify uncertainty, provide insightful analysis or synthesis, and reinforce take home messages.

Questions and responses will be evaluated as follows:

1. No contribution; minimal knowledge of content or concept
2. Minimal contribution; aware of topic and content
3. Substantial contribution; contributes to engagement and learning
4. Major contribution; motivates class and promotes understanding

Make-Up Examinations and Late Assignments:

Make-up examinations and late assignments will be accepted only when students present a documented University-excused absence within 1 week of the scheduled exam or assignment (see TAMU Regulations).

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected and will be evaluated as a component of class participation. Students who consistently attend class attain the highest performance.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Contact the Department of Student Life in Room B118 in Cain Hall (845-1637) for information.

Academic Integrity Statement

Upon admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code and the rules of the Honor System.