

## AGROSTOLOGY

BIOL 3405 & 3405

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2021

**Instructor:** Jeff Keeling

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**Course Meeting Times:** MWF 8:00-8:50 a.m. and Lab on Monday 3:00-4:50 p.m., both in Room 204.

**Office Hours:** still pending, but feel free to email me at any time (please expect a delayed response on weekends), and we can also meet up virtually on Blackboard Course Room.

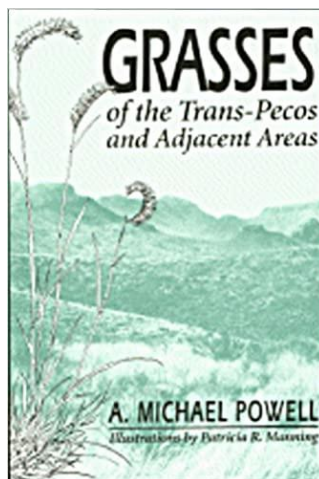
**Required Text:** Powell, A.M., 2000. *Grasses of the Trans-Pecos and Adjacent Areas*. Iron Mountain Press. Available at a 15% discount for students enrolled in this class at Front Street Books in Alpine.

**Recommended Text:** Harris, James G., and Melinda Harris, 2001. *Plant Identification Terminology (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.): An Illustrated Glossary*. Spring Lake Publishers.

**Course Description:** A four-hour introduction to the grasses of the Trans-Pecos, including identification of the major grass species of the local flora, nomenclature, taxonomy, and the ecological and economical significance of the group at large. Prerequisite: BIOL 1401 (General Botany) or permission of the instructor.

### Tentative Schedule of Lectures and Topics (subject to change)

Week 1 (8/23 – 8/27)	Introduction, Grasses in Perspective
Week 2 (8/30 – 9/3)	Grasslands, Morphology of Grasses
Week 3 (9/6 – 9/10)	Morphology (cont.), Trans-Pecos Grasses
Week 4 (9/13 – 9/17)	Grass Taxonomy; dichotomous keys, terminology
Week 5 (9/20 – 9/24)	EXAM 1; Subfamily Arundinoideae
Week 6 (9/27 – 10/1)	Subfamily Pooideae; Tribes Meliceae, Poeae
Week 7 (10/4 – 10/8)	Subfamily Pooideae; Tribes Aveneae, Bromeae
Week 8 (10/11 – 10/15)	Subfamily Pooideae, Tribe Triticeae
Week 9 (10/18 – 10/22)	Subfamily Chloridoideae, Tribe Eragrosteae
Week 10 (10/25 – 10/29)	Subfamily Chloridoideae, Tribe Eragrosteae
Week 11 (11/1 – 11/5)	EXAM 2; Subfamily Chloridoideae, Tribe Chlorideae
Week 12 (11/8 – 11/12)	Subfamily Chloridoideae, Tribes Zoysiae, Aeluropodeae, Pappophoreae



NOVEMBER 12	LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A "W"
Week 13 (11/15 – 11/19)	Subfamily Chloridoideae, Tribe Aristideae
Week 14 (11/22 – 11/26)	Subfamily Panicoideae, Tribes Paniceae, Andropogoneae; THANKSGIVING BREAK (11/23-11/26)
Week 15 (11/29 – 12/3)	Economic use of grasses, locally and worldwide; Grasses in land use, ecology, and conservation
Week 16 (12/6 – 12/10)	EXAM 3 (FINAL)

Grades: Exams will cover both lecture and lab material.

Exam 1	appx. 100-150 points
Exam 2	appx. 100-150 points
Exam 3	appx. 100-150 points
Grass Collection	120 points
Total	appx. 570 points

### Course Objectives (including lab):

- 1) Recognize common species of local grasses in the field.
- 2) Use dichotomous keys to identify grasses to species using a dissecting microscope in the lab.
- 3) Demonstrate use of appropriate terminology for describing grasses.
- 4) Know the major economic uses of grasses as sources of food, forage, fiber, etc.
- 5) Learn the art and science of collecting and making herbarium specimens of grasses, including the construction of a collection of 30 species, complete with detailed labels.
- 6) Become familiar with the A. Michael Powell Herbarium and its uses.

Lab work will focus primarily on developing skills for identifying specimens of grasses collected in the Trans-Pecos region. We shall collect fresh specimens for identification on short field trips, most of them in very close proximity to the SRSU campus. Other fresh specimens will be collected outside of class/lab hours by the instructor as well as by students.

**SRSU Attendance Policy.** Roll will be taken during each class meeting. The SRSU catalog states "The instructor may, at his discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class. Nonattendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences." RULE TO LIVE BY: DON'T MISS ANY CLASSES!

**Academic Integrity.** Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

**SRSU Disability Services.** SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can

during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

**Technical Support.** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.

Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

### ***SRSU Library Services.***

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass.

Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### **Diversity Statement**

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."