

**Directed Readings in Vegetation and Landscapes in Wildlife Management**  
**ST: WILD 4950**  
**Semester and Yearlong Sections**  
**Course Syllabus**

This course is taught as a directed readings course through Distance Education. One can register for the course by visiting [distance.usu.edu](http://distance.usu.edu) and searching for WILD 4950 in the desired semester. All materials needed for the class are provided online, on the course home page. This course is offered Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters. This course may be taken as a yearlong course, beginning each Spring, Summer, or Fall semester.

**Course Format:**

This course is a 1-3 credit course offered each semester. Those interested in taking the course yearlong may contact the instructor to arrange the course timeline. As a direct readings course, students enter the course when convenient for them to access the needed materials, participate in group discussions, and turn in assignments. Students do not need to participate in the class at any scheduled time. However, assignments are due at regular intervals throughout the semester.

**Course Instructor:**

Dr. Nicole Frey, Associate Professor, WILD Department, College of Natural Resources, Utah State University. Dr. Nicole Frey is off-campus but can be contacted whenever necessary with the following information. 435-586-1924, [nicki.frey@usu.edu](mailto:nicki.frey@usu.edu).

**Course Description:**

Papers selected for the course cover a wide range of topics: landscape level effects, vegetation management to control wildlife, impacts of wildlife on vegetation, and the interactions of landscape and scale on management decisions. My goal is to expand your awareness of subjects in the field of wildlife management by selecting topics and readings that give you new perspectives and information on this fascinating field of study.



All information will be available to you online. For each credit, I will select 4 articles for you to read, based on their focus of current issues. Additionally, I will post discussion questions for each article. You will engage in these discussions with your fellow classmates. Additionally, you will write a quick summary of the article (2 pages maximum). Although this is an independent study course, I will provide you with due dates. These dates are designed to promote a good discussion of each article.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To gain an understanding of the breadth of the field of Wildlife Management, with an emphasis on landscape effects and vegetation management strategies.

2. To improve the student's ability to read scholarly articles and understand the objectives, hypothesis, study design, results and conclusion of the studies.
3. To improve the student's writing ability; in particular to synthesize a scholarly article, illuminate core concepts and key points in a succinct manner.
4. To improve the student's ability to critique the study methods, results and presentation in order to increase the understanding of study design, implementation, and interpretation of results.
5. To improve the student's ability to discuss a scholarly article with peers. The student will be able to take information gleaned from a scholarly article and formulate responses in a discussion of the implications and impacts of the study.

**Reading Materials:**

All information needed for the course is provided to enrolled students online, via Blackboard, through the course home page. All articles will be selected by the instructor and made available to enrolled students of the course. Assignments will be submitted via the course site in Blackboard.

Students interested in more information regarding this topic may want to read *Learning Landscape Ecology*, by Gergel and Turner, or *Wildlife Habitat Management of Forestlands, Rangelands, and Farmlands*, by Payne and Bryant.

**Student Assessment:**

Students will be tested in two ways. First, students will write summary for each assigned article. This summary is assessed for content and grammar, for a total of 50 points per summary. Specific directions for these summaries are provided at the course home page via Blackboard. Second, for each article, I have provided several discussion questions to guide discussion among students. Each student will be assessed for his/her ability to provide his/her perspective, using information from the article, and ability/attempt to continue the discussion as it natural transitions. Each set of discussions has a possible score of 50 points. Therefore, for each assignment, the student has the ability to receive 100 points total, resulting in 1200 points total for the 3-credit class.

**Grading Distribution:**

Grading of student assignments following the standard % scale (90 – 100% = A, etc.). Scoring details are available to enrolled students by accessing the course home page via Blackboard.

**Absenteeism:**

This course is conducted online through Blackboard, at the students pace, within a given time frame. While a student can complete the assignments at his/her own pace, assignments must be completed by the assignment deadline. This encourages active discussions among students. Students that do not complete their course work by the due

date will be considered “absent” for that assignment. As such, advanced request may be made to the instructor in order to apply for an extension to the due date.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

**Academic Integrity:**

At USU we expect the highest standards of academic integrity. To avoid any unintended plagiarism or other violations, please view our policy on academic integrity at [USU Academic Integrity Policy](#) before you begin.