

RNEW 5985 – Research Across Disciplines

Fridays 2:10 – 3:00 PM

Agriculture Bldg 2024

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Office Hours: Room 149 AG C: Tues. 12:30-2; Wed. 11-1; or by appointment

Description: This seminar course is designed to introduce students to a broad range of both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research conducted by and in association with faculty in the Department of Renewable Resources. The majority of speakers will be faculty and post-docs associated with the department, with occasional speakers from outside the department who have shared or overlapping interests. Speakers will present results from their own research and make readings available to students in advance of the class.

Students are expected to (1) attend the seminars; (2) read manuscripts provided in advance of the presentation; (3) prepare a short analytical brief on the readings; (4) introduce a speaker; and, (5) engage the speakers with thoughtful questions based on both the assigned readings and the presentation.

Objectives:

1. Introduce students and other attendees to the broad range of research being performed by members of the department.
2. Enhance critical thinking and interpretation skills through reading and active engagement with the speakers.
3. Improve understanding of emerging and important topics in rangeland ecology, entomology, soil science and related disciplines such as water resources, rangeland restoration and carbon cycling.
4. Develop an appreciation for the complex and multidisciplinary nature of research in the department.
5. Meet and engage with other graduate students and faculty members.

Grading:

Class participation:	60%
Weekly Write-Up:	30%
Speaker Introduction:	10%

Course Organization and Assignments

1. There will be 13 speakers. The speakers have been asked to provide readings in advance of their presentation. Students are expected to read these materials prior to the seminar, and be prepared to address questions to the speaker. Attendance is mandatory; if you have a legitimate reason for missing a seminar (such as field research or conference attendance) please meet with me in advance.
2. Students will be assigned to each of the speakers, and will prepare and deliver a short introduction of the speaker prior to their seminar. The introduction will provide a brief biography of the speaker and a short explanation of the topic. Students are expected to seek out and meet with the speakers in advance to prepare this introduction, which should last approximately 2 minutes.
3. Students will also prepare a short analytical brief in advance of the presentations based on their reading and understanding of the material. These briefs should be written as condensed summaries of the readings, and include some analyses regarding the topic and the research approach taken in the paper.

Tentative Seminar Schedule

Date	Speaker Name
<i>Aug 28</i>	Introduction Welcome by John Tanaka Head Department of renewable Resources University of Wyoming
<i>Sept 4</i>	Peter Stahl Professor & Director Wyoming Reclamation & Restoration Center Department of Renewable Resources University of Wyoming
<i>Sept 11</i>	Dustin Bronson Post-Doctoral Research Scientist Department of Renewable Resources University of Wyoming

Sept 18

Jake Weltzin

Executive Director
USA National Phenology Network
United States Geological Survey

Sept 25

Thijs Kelleners

Assistant Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Oct 2

Kristine Bennett

Research Entomologist
USDA-ARS ABADRL
Laramie, WY

Oct 9

John Stednick

Professor & Program Leader
Watershed Science Program
Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Watershed Stewardship
Colorado State University

Oct 16

Ann Hild

Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Oct 23

Bill Lauenroth

Professor
Botany Department
University of Wyoming

Oct 30

Jeff Beck

Assistant Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Nov 6

Rachel Meador

Extension Range Specialist
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Nov 13

Jay Norton

Assistant Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Nov 20

Scott Shaw

Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Dec 4

Ginger Paige

Assistant Professor
Department of Renewable Resources
University of Wyoming

Student Support

If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to, University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY: 766-3073

Student Code of Conduct

1. Students should exhibit respectful classroom values and behavior by:
 - engaging in appropriate communication, interaction and preparedness
 - demonstrating trust, respect and civility
 - approaching course content as important and necessary
 - meeting all deadlines for assignments and team member obligations
 - turning off cell phones in class
 - avoiding unnecessary talking
 - not reading outside material or doing other work during class
2. Students should contribute to a positive learning environment by:
 - arriving, attending and departing class in a respectful manner
 - taking responsibility for team and individual assignments
 - developing cooperative relationships with other students and faculty
3. Students should support a professional learning environment by:
 - avoiding inappropriate language
 - refraining from unrealistic expectations in dealing with administration, faculty and staff
 - communicating with the instructor if changes could be made to improve the learning environment
4. Students must uphold the academic integrity standards expected by the University of Wyoming. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking responsibility for one's own work. This includes individual assignments and the assumption of responsibility for work that is turned in as the "work product" of a team. Each team member is equally responsible for the work presented as the output of that team's effort. Each team member must carefully collaborate and have jointly participated in the final output. The University of Wyoming's definition of Academic Dishonesty referenced in the Student Code of Conduct: "An act attempted or performed which misrepresents one's involvement in an academic task in any way, or permits another student to misrepresent the latter's involvement in an academic task by assisting the misrepresentation." These acts include, but are not limited to: "Representing as one's own work material copied or borrowed from any source, written or otherwise, public or private, without proper citation of the source. See University of Wyoming Regulation 802. A good rule of thumb is to never use more than five consecutive words from a source without providing a citation. Student work may be evaluated for plagiarism using anti-plagiarism software if the instructor suspects academic dishonesty