SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
Revised Course Request: Unique Course

Prefix & No.          Course Title                        Credits
RANG 325-325L        Measurement Topics and Lab          3, 0

Course Description as it currently appears in the system course database:
This course will be offered yearly. The two sections will be offered in alternate summers, scheduled independent of regular summer sessions. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits, but only if both sections are taken.---Section 1-Natural Resource Measurements: Two week field course, with reports and assignments due within one month of formal course completion. Principles of sampling, field sampling methods, analysis of data and problem solving. Emphasis will be on measurement of important plant, animal, and climatic attributes, and on factors important in interpretation of that information. Course will provide substantial field experience, as well as experience using computers to analyze data and develop scientific reports. P, Stat 281, or consent of instructor.---Section 2-Rangeland Analysis and Monitoring: Two week field course, with reports and assignments due within one month of formal course completion. Emphasis will be on a variety of methods for evaluating rangeland "health", range condition, successional status, and trend, and for monitoring rangelands, including rationale, establishment of monitoring sites, monitoring methods, and analysis of data. Students will gain hands-on experience in field sampling, data collection, data analysis, and report writing. P, Stat 281, or consent of instructor.

Section 2. Modification(s) Requested

1. This modification will include (check all that apply):
   ___ A change in title
   X  Revised Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring and Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring Lab
   ___ A change in course description/subject matter content

   Principles and practical application of the assessment and monitoring of rangeland plant communities. Course will be offered in a hybrid format. In the online portion of the course, students will learn how to set objectives, determine parameters to measure, select appropriate techniques, and analyze quantitative data. The laboratory portion is a 1-week intensive field session held in late summer, providing substantial field experiences including performing a wide variety of sampling techniques, collection and analysis of assessment and monitoring data, and learning how state and federal agencies assess and monitor rangelands. Students will also work in teams to develop a monitoring plan for a specific property, collect and analyze initial data, and present the plan and results to the land owner.
A change in delivery method

**Current** Face to face  **Revised**  hybrid

Change in grading option from A-F grading to A-F grading and IP grading

Cross list at the 400/500 level

Add Prerequisites – STAT 281

2. **Provide a justification for all of the changes noted.**

**Course No.:** Than change from 325 to 425 better reflects the level of the course materials within the undergraduate Range Science program. Additionally, dual listing the class as 525 provides a needed graduate course in assessment and monitoring. The course provides hands-on field experiences appropriate for graduate student research. There will be considerable overlap in material between range RANG 425 and 525. However, the expectations of students in RANG 525 will be greater than for RANG 425.

**Title:** The new title is a better reflection of the material provided in the course.

**Course Description:** It eliminates duplication between the two sections of RANG 325 and combines material into a single course.

**Delivery Method:** This allows students to learn the material throughout the summer and then attend the field portion face-to-face to apply the concepts learned to real field situations. The change reduces the intensive portion of the course from 2 weeks to 1 week, resulting in less interference with other courses as well as summer jobs and internships.

**Prerequisites:** The change specifies appropriate preparatory coursework needed for students to take RANG 425-525. Students may, however, seek instructor consent if they have not taken STAT 281 or equiv.

**Grading:** It allows students to complete course requirements following the intensive 1-week summer instruction.

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**Section 3. To be Completed by Academic Affairs**

University Dept Code  SNRM

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