Instructor: Bob Nowak  
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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11 - Noon or by appointment

Course Information
Class meets on Thursdays from Noon – 1:00 PM in KRC 110 unless otherwise indicated. Information about the course, handouts, and other documents for the course will be posted on the following web site: http://www.ag.unr.edu/nowak/PlantEcolSem11S.aspx.

The format of the course consists of formal seminar presentations and discussion sessions on a specific topic of interest lead by the particular week’s speaker. Generally, speakers focus on a different topic each week (usually because they have a set of results that they would like to discuss). However if desired by students, the course can be orientated around a main theme for this semester where speakers focus on a particular aspect of the theme. The course instructor will send out a remainder on the Monday of each week for that week’s class meeting, which will include any specific instructions or reading assignments from that week’s speaker.

Topic Outline
Speakers and topics for each date that the course meets will be posted at the following web site: http://www.ag.unr.edu/Nowak/PlantTalk.aspx. The final class meeting will be on May 11, 2011 from Noon – 2:00 PM.

Course Objectives
The primary goal of the course is to foster interdisciplinary discussions, collaborations, and education among scientists, researchers, students, and others interested in plant ecology and in the ecology and management of natural resources. The specific objectives of the course are to present and discuss:

- Research ideas that students, faculty, and visiting scientists are interested in conducting.
- Data and results from studies conducted by students, faculty and visiting scientists.
- New ideas and concepts in the literature that individuals or a group are interested in understanding or exploring.
- Controversial theories and hypotheses that are in the literature or are something that individuals or a group are interested in.
- Any other topics of interest to individuals or a group.

The course uses both formal presentations in a seminar format and facilitated discussions lead by one or more individuals to achieve its goal and objectives.

Grades
This course is pass/fail (S/U) only. To receive a satisfactory passing grade, a student must meet 2 criteria:

1. Make one formal, professional 50-minute seminar presentation or lead one 50-minute discussion session.
2. Actively participate in at least 80% of the remaining class meetings by either asking relevant questions during other seminar presentations or intellectually contribute to discussion sessions.

Disability Services:
Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the course instructor or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty:
Students are expected to adhere to the ethical code as described in the UNR Student Handbook. This code specifies that with enrollment, an individual commits to the principles embodied in the code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable. In the event of an academic dishonesty issue, the procedures for addressing the issue are outlined in the University’s “Academic Dishonesty Procedures”, which can be obtained from the Director of Student Judicial Affairs in the Jones Visitor Center.