208-348 Ecology & Management of Grazing Systems

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	3 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	This subject is not offered in 2009.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Twenty-four hours lectures, 36 hours practicals/tutorial sessions Total Time Commitment: Contact hours: 60. Estimated total time commitment (including non-contact time): 120 hours.
Prerequisites:	Nil
Corequisites:	Nil
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry. It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability
Subject Overview:	Pastures and grasslands comprise the dominant vegetation cover across the Australian continent. The way pastures and grasslands are managed is therefore central to the sustainable use of natural resources such as soil and water, as well as the economic development of the pasture-based livestock industries (meat and wool sheep, beef cattle and dairy). This subject will include: # an overview of Australia's pasture and grassland resources # the population biology of pasture plants, including the growth cycles ofo annual and perennial plants, and pathways of plant survival # the major pasture plant species and pasture types, their agronomic and adaptive characteristics and management requirements # pasture improvement principles and practices # plant and pasture growth processes influencing the accumulation of yield in pastures, and implications for management # the feeding and nutritive value of pastures and factors affecting animal intake; and # the principles and practices of grazing management.
Objectives:	On completion of this subject, students will : # understand the basic ecology and agronomy of pasture communities and the factors that influence yield of a grazed pasture; # know the principles underlying efficient pasture and grazing management, and the practices required for sustainable production from grazing systems; # appreciate the importance of seasonality in pasture production, and its consequences for the management of grazing systems; # have experience in using the practical tools and skills required for the efficient management of grazing systems; and # be able to solve problems in the management of grazing systems.

Assessment:	Three-hour end of semester examination worth 50% of final marks; 3 assignments completed using interactive multimedia due in approximately week 5, week 9 and week 12 each equivalent to 1000-1500 words and collectively totalling 40% of final marks; and practical assignments completed during semester and collectively totalling 10% of final marks.
Prescribed Texts:	Nil
Recommended Texts:	Nil
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	On completion of this subject, students should have developed their: # problem solving and analytical skills # capacity to tackle unfamiliar problems # ability to think systematically and integrate knowledge from different disciplines # communication skills, through written and oral presentations # quantitative analysis skills, and # sense of intellectual curiosity.