

# Sustainable Rangeland & Livestock Management

*Summer Quarter 2017  
at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch!*



## ASCI S470

**2 weeks**  
**4 units**

**Dates:** July 31 – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Swanton Pacific Ranch (*Davenport, CA*)

**Registration:** Cal Poly Extended Education (*total cost \$1,799*)

**Housing:** Included (*onsite housing for duration of the class*)

**Meals:** Included (*all meals Monday - Friday lunch*)

**Primary Instructor:** Marc Horney, Ph.D. (*mhorney@calpoly.edu*)

Online: [summer.calpoly.edu/summerterm/swanton-pacific](http://summer.calpoly.edu/summerterm/swanton-pacific)



*Focus: to provide practical, professional, field-based experience in sustainable rangeland management and monitoring strategies.*

*Open to all: college students, land/livestock managers, conservation professionals.*

## Course Description:

ASCI S470 will provide training in the management of California grassland and brushland ecosystems on ranches, and for conservation projects that employ grazing to achieve conservation objectives.

Over the 11 days, students will learn common methods of evaluating (1) plant community characteristics (forage/biomass production, species composition, frequency), (2) wildlife habitat conditions (structure and density), and (3) features that may impact water quality (chiefly sediment yield from streambank and road conditions and livestock access points, and degree and extent of vegetative cover for soil protection, filtration, and stream shading). That learning will include doing significant field work to gain experience in evaluating these parameters in different habitats on the ranch. The final class project will be a written and detailed management plan for vegetation, wildlife habitat, or water quality protection.

Class discussions will include how to use this information to document progress towards ecological and enterprise objectives over time. Topics will also cover how to establish objectives for, and develop plans for, grazing management, drought mitigation, and management of wildlife, including sensitive species - and a review of programs available for assisting private landowners in those efforts. Where approaches differ between annual and perennial grass-dominated grasslands, we will discuss how and why.

The course is structured to accommodate a mixture of relative novices to early career professionals with the intention to leverage those interactions to improve the experience.

A detailed syllabus is available. Contact Marc Horney for a copy.