Justification for Proposed Course: NREM 610 Degradation in Human-Dominated Ecosystems

Additional information requested in item 18 on Form UHM-1:

1. What is the course modification?
This is a request for a new course

2. Why is this course being requested?
Please see the attached “Package” justification. This will be a core course for the PhD degree in NREM.

3. How will the content be organized?
The course content will be organized as lectures, addressing the principles, theories, examples and models for terrestrial ecosystem degradation and its prevention, control and/or restoration. This a graduate course, so the students will be heavily engaged in considerable work assignments in the form of class discussions and term paper assignments and presentations during the semester. Examinations will be administered as necessary. A course outline is attached.

4. How is this course different from related courses at UHM?
No such course exists in the department, college, or UHM.

5. Where or how does this course fit in the current or future curriculum?
This course will be a required core course for the PhD in NREM.

6. Number of credits and level
Three credits will allow ample coverage of addressed topics at a level that is compatible with graduate program requirements in NREM. As noted on Form UHM-1, the time allotted for the course is consistent with the guidelines for a three credit course.

7. How does the course address CTAHR critical skills and competencies?
Please see the overall justification “package” for the needed changes in NREM graduate programs.

8. How will students be evaluated?
Students will be evaluated primarily on their accomplished work during the semester, their discussion participation, and administered examinations.

9. Minimum qualifications and availability of instructor
The minimum qualifications for teaching this course are graduate level training and experience in the research and applications of land degradation and restoration issues. The present instructor (Professor Samir A. El-Swaify) is a world authority on these issues. When he retires, his expertise will be replaced by another faculty member whose
selection will take place shortly in response to a recruitment for a new position that has been approved for staffing and is now being advertised.

10. **How will course be financed?**  
No special financing is needed aside from the salary of the instructor.

11. **Has the course been offered before? Is there a demand?**  
No. Sufficient enrollment will be realized by NREM Graduate majors for whom the course is required, and by others across the campus for whom natural resource degradation issues are topical in their respective majors (SOEST, Geography, Civil Engineering, and others)

12. **Cross-listing?**  
None