

**Texas A&M University - Commerce**

**School of Agriculture**

**Spring 2016**

**Instructor:** Courtney Sutton

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**Course:** AMC 423 *Natural Resources Management*

**Time:** This course is web-based and is divided into 8 modules. Students will have two weeks to complete each module.

**No Text:** No text required. Documents will be provided online that you may download.

This course deals with issues related to the management of renewable natural resources and the impact of agricultural enterprises on the environment. Some of the major concepts that will be discussed include, renewable natural resource conservation, water protection, and land use. The course will utilize ecological and sustainable perspectives, where applicable.

Course concepts will emphasize these themes:

- Perspectives of Ecology, Conservation, and Sustainability
- Soil and Water Conservation and Protection
- Livestock and Poultry Waste Management
- Wildlife, Timber, and Farm Pond Management
- Regulations, Permits, and Governmental Agencies

Each module will have an overview, brief introductory notes/lecture, and links to course elements for review. Modules will include a quiz, discussion, article, critique, and assignment. A comprehensive final exam will also be included.

**Course Objectives:** Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe examples of how production agriculture impacts the environment.
2. Compare various perspectives of natural resources management.
3. Be able to define components and characteristics of soils, and be able to recognize and describe, the signs types and factors contributing to soil erosion.
4. Describe management practices used to prevent watershed degradation and identify factors contributing to watershed degradation.
5. Explain the difference between sustainable agriculture, traditional, or commercial agriculture and organic farming; be able to describe the factors contributing to the concept of sustainability in agricultural.

6. Describe the basic concepts of forest management, and be able to recognize the relationship between forest management and wildlife habitat.
7. Describe the basic concepts and recognize the universal strategies applied to Integrated Pest Management.
8. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using various types of livestock, poultry, and human waste for soil improvement.

**Grading:**

Student Lounge Introduction	NG
Online discussion (at least two entries per module/topic)	80
Quizzes (8 at 20 points each)	160
Article Critiques (8 at 20 points each)	160
Module Assignments ( 7 at 100 points each)	700
Participation	100
Final Exam	100

**Total Possible Points: 1300**

**A: Above 1170 points**

**B: 1040-1169 points**

**C: 910- 1039 points**

**D: 780- 909 points**

**F: Below 780 points**

**Participation:**

Students will be graded on their participation within each module. Points will be awarded for discussion posts that are active useful and engaging in the current topic. Discussion threads are intended to be a safe environment for discussing sometimes controversial topics. Any disrespectful comments will be removed and appropriate action will be taken as needed.

**Student Lounge Introduction**

Each student is expected to provide a brief introduction of themselves before the closing of the first module. The purpose of this introduction is to explore the varying experiences each student brings to the course.

## Online Discussion

Each student is expected to participate in online discussions for each module. Participation includes but is not limited to, posing of or responding to questions or comments that offer meaningful contribution to the module topic or the related prompt. Phrases such as , “I agree with Mary...” or “That’s not what I thought...” will have zero point value. The instructor will determine whether or not the posted online discussion is a meaningful contribution to the topic. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion for each module. **One response to the initial post plus one response to another student’s response is required for full credit. The first post must be completed with the first week of the module to ensure ample opportunity for discussion to emerge. Failure to post at least twice, one being within the first week of the module will result in a loss of points.**

## Article Critique

Each student will write a one page (single spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman) critique over a current article that addresses the specific module topic. It is preferable if citations follow APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines, but at a minimum need to possess the necessary information to locate the article. Further explanation of this assignment can be found within each module. The rubric for this assignment is listed below:

Professionalism of submission (proper grammar, punctuation, etc.)	7 points
Citation of source	3 points
Content	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 points</b>

## Final Exam

The final exam will be a comprehensive assessment of the student’s understanding of the issues and practices associated with the management of renewable natural resources it will consist of multiple-choice, true-false, matching, and limited (brief) response essay items.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### *ADA Statement*

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

## Spring Schedule

*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester, if needed. The instructor also reserves the right to extend credit for alternative assignments, projects, or presentations.*

### Important Dates:

Module Number	Open Date	Close Date
1	January 19, 2016	February 5, 2016
2	February 1, 2016	February 13, 2016
3	February 14, 2016	February 27, 2016
4	February 28, 2016	March 12, 2016
<b>Spring Break March 14-18</b>		
5	March 20, 2016	April 2, 2016
6	April 3, 2016	April 16, 2016
7	April 17, 2016	April 30, 2016
8	May 1, 2016	May 11, 2016
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>May 9, 2016</b>	<b>May 11, 2016</b>

**Note:** All assignments, articles, discussions and quizzes within each module will have the same due dates as the respective closing date of the module.