



HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

AG 440 / BSC 440 01E

SPRING 2023

Instructor: Dr. Pedro M. Chavarria
Course Location: AG/IT Building 255
Course Hours: MWF 1:00-1:50 pm
Office Location: AG/ET 154
Office Hours: By appointment, schedule by e-mail
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Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Decker, D.J., S.J. Riley, and W.F. Siemer. 2012. Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management. 2nd edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, USA
Supplemental Materials: Presented by the instructor or on myleeonline.tamuc.edu

Course Description

Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management explains how a wildlife professional can more effectively manage species and social-ecological systems by fully considering the role that humans play in every stage of the wildlife management process. Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management provides the essential information that students and practitioners need to be effective problem solvers to handle a variety of situations, such as managing deer populations in residential areas, encounters between predators and people, or managing citizen input on wildlife issues. Topics will include human dimensions of wildlife management and conservation, wildlife use (hunting and fishing), working with public and private landowners, involving citizen scientists, managing citizen input, using economics to inform decision making, preparing questionnaires, ethical consideration, and the psychological and philosophical underpinnings of wildlife management. Prerequisite: AG/BSC 335 and AG/BSC 336.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Build an understanding of and appreciation for the role of Human Dimensions (HD) in wildlife management,
2. Competently assess and apply past and current HD research to current HD issues,
3. Construct an introductory-level quantitative analysis tool for evaluating HD issues,
4. Demonstrate constructive dialog with diverse publics,
5. Work with a peer-group to identify collective solutions to assignments with an HD focus, and
6. Critically assess an HD issue using examples from scientific literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You must be proficient in navigating myleoonline.tamuc.edu, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, e-mailing your instructor, writing papers, and opening .pdf documents.

Instructional Methods

You will be required to read the book chapters, supplemental reading material, and instructional PowerPoint slides. Quizzes and exams will cover the material presented to you via myleoonline.tamuc.edu, and information in the text.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

To be successful in the course, students must complete all tests and assignments on the date they are due. Thus, you, the student, are responsible for keeping track of due dates. You will also be responsible for having access to secure and reliable internet service. The successful student will arrange to complete and submit required work well before the due date to avoid connectivity issues. Always have a “plan B.”

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%; B = 80%-89%; C = 70%-79%; D = 60%-69%; F = 59% or Below

Assessments

1. Weekly Forum Discussions 15 x 20 pts. each = 300 pts.
2. Attendance and Participation: 100 pts
3. Midterm Exams (s): 2 x 100 pts = 200 pts
4. Group Activity presentations and judging: 5 x 40 = 200 pts.
5. Final research paper: 200 pts.
6. Extra credit: Wildlife seminar summary: 50 pts

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Attendance and Participation:

Each student is expected to attend all classes and participate in all discussions. This course meets in-person and will have some readings and materials uploaded online on the course D2L site. Your “attendance” grade will be based on in-person attendance and participation. If you do not attend (participate) in class, you cannot receive credit for attendance or participation. Current Topic Reports (CTR) will be used to evaluate participation grades.

Weekly Forum Discussions

There will be weekly online (myLeo / D2L) Forum Discussions posted and assigned at the beginning of each week (Monday) and due at the end of each week (Friday). quizzes. Your instructor will post a general topic for each week from which each student will be responsible for creating their own individual thread as a response to the instructor’s question. Each student is also responsible for reviewing another student’s thread and posting a reply. Each response must be backed with credible source information from lecture or literature from scientific manuscripts or credible news publications. Each response in a thread should be about 2 paragraphs in length.

Group Activity: Presentation and Mock Debate:

You will work in select groups of 3-5 people and be assigned to defend a position related to wildlife management and conservation. You will consider all aspects of human dimensions as it relates to the perspective of the stakeholder or professional group you are representing. Each side is responsible for researching the topic and perspectives typical of the group they are representing, based on actual and anecdotal evidence from historical cases. In general, one side will support a proposed wildlife management action and the other will take an opposing stance. Each side must back their arguments up with science and social considerations. Each group may use Powerpoint and or other forms of media to communicate their views. The audience will take notes and serve as formal jury and/or jury of public opinion in evaluating the presenters.

Final Research Paper

Each student will write a research paper on a unique current human dimension topic that is related to a chapter discussed in the class. The format of these papers will consist of a 5-page essay, 1.5 spaced. The following questions will need to be addressed in the essay: 1) Provide a 2-page background narrative on the nature of an actual problem regarding a wildlife management and the human dimensions revolving around the issue; 2) Provide a 1-page research plan on how you would design a study to collect information on how to find a solution to the issue; 3) provide a sample evaluation tool for providing an analysis to the problem; 4) provide examples drawn from scientific manuscripts that show how this analysis would be conducted; 3) Provide references, in proper citation format, from both the textbook and the manuscript.

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Midterm Exams

There will be 2 midterm exams composed of a combination of short response essay and multiple choice questions.

Wildlife Management Seminar Review:

Extra credit: There will be an optional opportunity to receive 50 pts. extra credit for creating attending a seminar presentation online or on-campus. More details regarding the format and requirements of this voluntary opportunity will be provided later in the semester. No late assignment will be accepted for the extra credit.

Course week	Dates	Weekly agenda
Week 1		Course introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Syllabus overview2. How to prepare a Powerpoint presentation for CTR3. Assigned Readings: Chapter 14. Assigned: Forum Discussion #15. Assigned: Current Topics Report (CTR) #1
		Chapter 1: What is Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture: review of topic2. Case study: Feral hog in the thicket3. Assigned Readings: Chapter 24. Assigned: Forum Discussion #25. Assigned: Current Topics Report (CTR) #2
		Chapter 1: What is Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture: review of topic2. Case study: Feral hog in the thicket3. Assigned Readings: Chapter 24. Assigned: Forum Discussion #2 Assigned: Current Topics Report (CTR) #2 Due: Forum Discussion #1
Week 2		Holiday: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Class Meeting
		Chapter 2: Governance of Wildlife Resources <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lecture: Weather and wildlife2. Case study: CITES3. Readings: Chapter 3
		Chapter 3: Stakeholders as Beneficiaries of Wildlife Management <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Lecture: review of topic5. Case study: The role of NGOs and watchdog groups6. Assigned Readings: Chapter 47. Due: Forum Discussion #2

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Week 3		Activity #1: Stakeholder Meeting Assigned: Forum Discussion #3
		Section 2: CTR Reading/Discussion #2
		Chapter 4: Social Psychological Consideration in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 5 and 6 3. Due: Forum Discussion #3
Week 4		Chapter 5&6: Sociological and Economic Considerations in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 7 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #4 4. Assigned: Current Topics Report (CTR) #3
		Exam Review
		Exam #1 (covering Chapters 1-4) Due: Discussion Forum #4
Week 5		Activity #2: Survey Data Collection Assigned: Forum Discussion #5
		Section 3: CTR Reading/Discussion #3
		Chapter 7: Sociological and Economic Considerations in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 8 3. Due: Forum Discussion #5
Week 6		Chapter 8: Decision Making in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 9 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #6
		Chapter 9: Planning a Human Dimensions Inquiry 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 9; online
		Chapter 9: Planning a Human Dimensions Inquiry 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 10 3. Due: Forum Discussion #6
Week 7		Chapter 10: Methods of Human Dimensions Inquiry 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 10 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #7
		Chapter 10: Methods of Human Dimensions Inquiry 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 11

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		Guest Speaker / Video (Subject to change) Due: Forum Discussion #6
Week 8		Chapter 11: Stakeholder Engagement in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 11 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #8
		Chapter 11: Stakeholder Engagement in Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 12
		Exam Review Due: Forum Discussion #8
Spring Break		Study for Exam
Week 9		Exam #2 (Chapters 5-11) Assigned: Discussion Forum #9
		Chapter 12: Communication for Effective Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 12
		Chapter 12: Communication for Effective Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 13 3. Due: Forum Discussion #9
Week 10		Activity #3: Introduction to Survey Data Analysis Assigned: Forum Discussion #10
		Chapter 13: Human Dimensions of Abundant Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 14
		Chapter 13: Human Dimensions of Abundant Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 14 3. Due: Forum Discussion #10
Week 11		FFA Career Development Events Assigned: Forum Discussion #11
		Chapter 14: Human Dimensions of Scarce Wildlife Management 1. Lecture: review of topic
		Chapter 14: Human Dimensions of Scarce Wildlife Management

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Due: Forum Discussion #11
Week 12		Chapter 15: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Use Management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned: Forum Discussion #12
		Survey Data Analysis (Chi-Square) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 15
		Survey Data Analysis (Chi-Square) Due: Forum Discussion #12
Week 13		Activity #4: Survey Data Analysis (Chi-Square) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 16 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #13
		Activity #4: Survey Data Analysis (Chi-Square) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 16
		Activity #4: Survey Data Analysis (Chi-Square) Due: Forum Discussion #13
Week 14		Chapter 17: Continuing your Education in Human Dimensions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 16 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #14
		Chapter 17: Continuing your Education in Human Dimensions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 18
		Guest Speaker / Video (subject to change) *! Final Research Paper Due
Week 15		Chapter 16: Environmental Ethics for Wildlife Management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 16 3. Assigned: Forum Discussion #15
		Chapter 16: Environmental Ethics for Wildlife Management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Chapter 16
		Chapter 16: Environmental Ethics for Wildlife Management Due: Forum Discussion #15
Week 16		Finals Week

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Student Success

To be successful in my class:

- check the course daily (e-mail and Canvas) and read announcements

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- read and respond to course email messages as needed; please understand that I will respond as quickly as conveniently as possible. Sometimes I will respond to messages late into the evening, but generally expect me to reply within regular business hours
- complete assignments by the due dates specified; If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from meeting a deadline, please let me know so I can consult with you about necessary accommodations or make-up opportunities
- communicate regularly with your instructor (office hours) and peers. I am very understanding of situations that may arise in the academic environment or in our personal lives which can create challenges to your performance. Please let me know what's going on so I can provide reasonable opportunities to help you recover and/or stay on track with the course.
- create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have

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been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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