



WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT

AG 397 01E

SPRING 2024

Instructor: Dr. Pedro M. Chavarria
Course Location: AG/ET Building 255
Course Hours: MWF 10:00-10:50 am
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) Recommended:

Title: Waterfowl Ecology and Management
Author(s): Guy A. Baldassarre and Eric G. Bolen (Editors)
Edition: and/or Publication Date: 2nd Edition
ISBN-10 : 1575242605
ISBN-13 : 978-1575242606
Publisher: Krieger Publishing Company. Malabar, Florida, USA

Supplemental Materials: Presented by the instructor or on myleonline.tamuc.edu

Required Field Equipment: Binoculars for field identification of waterfowl; Camera

Course Description

The course will expose students to concepts of managing waterfowl in North America (i.e. with focus on the conservation practices of those species in Texas). Overview of topics include taxonomy, life history, harvest management, habitat management, population estimation, and conservation ecology of exotic species. Additional topics cover wildlife diseases, genetics, economic significance, and human dimensions. Indoor lab exercise will cover identification and aging of species. Field trips will expose students to actual management practices conducted in the field and provide an opportunity for applied skills in planning field studies, data collection, analysis, and synthesis of a management plan. Prerequisites: None

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the conservation ecology of waterfowl with focus on those in Texas
2. To understand principles of habitat management and their application for waterfowl
3. To create a management plan for waterfowl species
4. To develop applied skills in the field for data collection and analysis of game populations
5. To develop communication skills and clarity to present ideas.

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

This predominantly lecture-based course includes some field trip /labs and is based on a 1000 point scale. The points are earned by performance on 2 exams (20%), 2 field trips assessment reports (10%), 2 indoor lab practical exam (20%), 1 field research project report (10%), In-class or take-home quizzes (10%), 1 major management plan research paper (10%), a cumulative final exam (15%) and attendance (5%). There will be mandatory field trips where students practice field methods. Other optional trips may serve as extra credit toward the course. The breakdown is as follows:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Assignment	Points
Lecture Exams 2	100 each → 200
2 short Field evaluations (field trip assessments)	50 each x 2 → 100
Indoor Lab practicals (lab exam)	2 x 100 = 200
Field research project report	100
Weekly pop quizzes / take-home quizzes/ homework (point range 10- 25 pts. each quiz)	100
Research paper (Management Plan)	100
Attendance and Participation	50
Final Exam	150

Attendance and Participation:

Each student is expected to attend all lectures and participate in all discussions. This course meets in-person in the traditional lecture format.

Your “attendance” grade will be based on logging in daily and participation. If you do not attend (participate) in class, you cannot receive credit for attendance or participation. You must participate in class discussions posted on forums on our course shell in myLeo. There will be a total of 10 forum discussions posted to which you must respond to the week’s topic or questions and responses provided by your instructor and classmates.

Waterfowl Management Field Trips / Labs:

There will be 3 mandatory 1-day field trip labs located close to campus. We will visit the TAMUC farm and rangelands, game management ranches, and public conservation lands to examine different perspectives on how waterfowl is managed in those areas. You will be required to take notes on these trips and produce a short summary (field assessments) on conservation concerns for game species in those areas. The format of these papers will consist of 5-8 page reports which include a short synopsis, detailed boundary maps, species lists, photo documentation, preliminary analysis, habitat recommendations. A field research project will allow students to collect data in field or from harvest records and analyze and evaluate populations of waterfowl. Some short field trips near campus will expose students to sampling techniques and how to conduct habitat assessments. Students must wear shoes and clothing suitable for travel outdoors in the field. Students will need to purchase their own binoculars.

Indoor lab practicals (exams):

There will be 2 indoor practical “lab exams” in which you will need to be familiar with taxonomy and techniques for identification of species, age, and sex of select specimens of waterfowl.

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Course week	Dates	Weekly agenda
Week 1	1/10-1/12	Course introduction 1. Syllabus overview 2. Field Trips required 3. Assigned Readings: Online 4. Required Field Equipment (Binoculars)
		Waterfowl Management: Historical Perspective 1. Lecture: review of topic 2. Assigned Readings: Online
		Waterfowl Classification I: General Overview
Week 2	1/15-1/19	Holiday: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Class Meeting
		Waterfowl Classification II: Anseriformes
		Waterfowl Classification II: Anseriformes
Week 3	1/22-1/26	Waterfowl Classification III: Gaviiformes, Gruiformes, Podicipediformes
		Waterfowl Classification IV: Procellariiformes and Pelecaniformes
		Waterfowl Classification V: Charadriiformes and Ciconiiformes
Week 4	1/29-2/2	Waterfowl Classification VI: Sphenisciformes, Coraciiformes, and other wetlands terrestrial birds
		Exam Review
		Exam #1
Week 5	2/5-2/9	Courtship Behavior, Mating Systems, and Pair-Bond Formation
		Courtship Behavior, Mating Systems, and Pair-Bond Formation
		Courtship Behavior, Mating Systems, and Pair-Bond Formation
Week 6	2/12-2/16	Indoor Lab 1: Wing-ID
		Indoor Lab 2: Wing-ID (practice quiz)
		Reproductive Ecology
Week 7	2/19-2/23	Reproductive Ecology
		Reproductive Ecology
		Feeding Ecology
Week 8	2/26-3/1	Feeding Ecology
		Feeding Ecology
		Exam Review

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Week 9	3/4-3/8	Exam #2
		Nesting, Brood Rearing, and Molting
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Spring Break	3/11-3/15	Study for Exam
Week 10	3/18-3/22	Nesting, Brood Rearing, and Molting
		Indoor Lab 3: Wing-ID review
		Lab Practical Exam #1 (Wing ID)
Week 11	3/25-3/29	Winter and Migrations
		FFA CDE Event (No Class, 3/27)
		Winter and Migrations
Week 12	4/1-4/5	Mortality and Harvest Management
		Mortality and Harvest Management
		Mortality and Harvest Management
Week 13	4/8-4/12	Major Waterfowl Habitats
		Major Waterfowl Habitats
		Major Waterfowl Habitats
Week 14	4/15-4/19	FFA CDE Event (No Class, 4/15)
		Wetlands and Wetlands Management
		Wetlands and Wetlands Management *! Final Research Paper Due
Week 15	4/22-4/26	Waterfowl Policy and Administration
		Waterfowl Policy and Administration
		Waterfowl Policy and Administration
Week 16	4/29	Final Exam Review
Finals Week	5/4-5/10	Finals Week: Final Exam

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>

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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
- 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

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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](#) webpage and [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>

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>

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<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 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.

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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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