



## **BSC 560: Landscape Ecology – Summer I 2024**

### **Web Based Course**

#### **Instructor Information:**

Bjorn Schmidt

Office: STC 212

Email: [bjorn.schmidt@tamuc.edu](mailto:bjorn.schmidt@tamuc.edu)

Preferred contact: email

Virtual office hours: 9-5 M-F, scheduled by appointment through email

#### **Required Textbook**

1) Essentials of Landscape Ecology. 2019. With, Kimberly A. Oxford University Press.

Any option below:

Paperback ISBN: 978-0198838395

eTextbook ISBN: 978-0198838388

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0198838388

#### **Course Description**

Students will study the relationships between ecological processes in the environment and particular ecosystems using a variety of landscape scales, development of spatial patterns, and organizational levels of research and policy.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will understand the history and context of the field of landscape ecology
- Students will know the importance of scale and heterogeneity patterns on ecological processes influenced by landscape features
- Students will understand how to measure patterns and interpret models of landscape analysis, and how features of the landscape promote connectivity between discrete populations

- Students will know how landscape features influence movement, population patterns and dynamics, population spread, colonization, invasion, and community patterns and dynamics
- Studies will be familiar with recent research in topics related to landscape ecology

### **Course Materials and Online Presentation**

All course materials will be presented through d2l. The class format will be asynchronous, following the schedule that appears later in the syllabus. Each week students should read the corresponding chapters for that week and look at the online powerpoints and materials. The powerpoint slides are intended to enhance the textbook readings, and are not intended to be a replacement for information from the text. Virtual office hours for the course are available by appointment. Questions will also be responded to promptly through email (within 24 hours). There will be periodic quizzes, research paper summaries, exams, and a review paper for course assessment.

### **Course Evaluations**

**Tests:** There will be two exams, each covering ~1/2 of the course content. The final exam is not cumulative.

**Quizzes:** There will be four weekly quizzes, consisting of multiple choice, T/F, or short answer questions.

**Paper Summaries:** There will be three paper summaries on peer-reviewed research articles related to topics covered in class. Due dates for these paper summaries are in the schedule and instructions and rubric for the summaries will be posted in d2l.

**Term review paper:** Students will need to select a topic for a review paper related to landscape ecology. Topics could include a specific research technique or model, effects from a specific landscape feature or landscape characteristics, or landscape effects on a specific species or related groups of organism, or other topics that would have enough primary literature for a review paper. Before starting the term paper, it is advised to email the instructor regarding your selected topic to ensure it matches the scope of the course. The paper should have at least 3,000 words, including references (~6 pages), and is required to have at least eight peer reviewed journal articles as references. More specific instructions for the paper will be posted in d2l.

**Video summary:** Students will need to complete and upload a short video (5-10 minutes) of themselves presenting a summary of the information from their review paper. This could include a video of the student presenting prepared powerpoint slides or of the student speaking directly to the camera.

**Evaluation Points**

Two exams: 200 points (100 points each)

Four quizzes: 80 points (20 points each)

Three paper summaries: 90 points (30 points each)

Review paper: 100 points

Video summary: 30 points

Total points = 500

**Grading**

A: 89.96-100%

B: 79.96-89.95%

C: 69.96-79.95%

D: 59.96-69.95%

F: <59.96%

**Online Attendance:** You are expected to keep up with all of the online course materials provided each week. Attendance will be assessed each week through logging onto d2l and interacting with powerpoints and other materials, uploading assignments, or taking quizzes/exams. Because this is a summer course, the course schedule is accelerated, so please try not to fall behind as it will be difficult to catch up in later weeks of the semester.

**General Makeup Policy:** Quizzes and Exams will not be available after the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see grading and answers for these assignments. If you have a university approved absence reason and cannot make a course deadline because of the event, please contact me by email and extensions may be granted if available.

**General Course Outline**

Course materials for each week will generally be uploaded on Monday of that week. Quizzes will be posted on Friday and due the following Wednesday or Tuesday (finals week only). Paper summaries will be due on each Friday, starting with the second week of class. There are two exams, which will each be available for two days in d2l as on the schedule below. The term paper and summary video is due on Tuesday of the last week of class.

**Course AI Statement:** AI writing tools, including predictive text generators like ChatGPT, are not allowed in this course. Students are responsible for their own work in the course, and are subject to requirements and consequences of the TAMUC academic dishonesty policy and the student code of conduct:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-life/division-of-student-affairs/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-code-of-conduct/>

### **Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):**

#### **June 3-June 7**

Textbook: Ch1, Ch2, Ch3

Topics covered: An introduction to Landscape Ecology, Scaling issues in Landscape Ecology, Landscape Heterogeneity and Dynamics

**Fri: Quiz One** - due Wed. June 12 (Ch1-3)

#### **June 10-June 14**

Textbook: Ch4, Ch5

Topics covered: Landscape Pattern Analysis, Landscape Connectivity

**Fri: Quiz Two** - due Wed. June 19 (Ch 4-5)

**Fri: Paper summary one due (June 14)** (related to topics in Ch 1-5)

#### **June 17-June 21**

**\*Thursday June 19 - Midterm exam posted - due by Friday June 20** (Chs 1-5)

Textbook: Ch6, Ch7

Topics covered: Landscape Effects on Individual Movement and Dispersal, Landscape Effects on Population Distributions and Dynamics

**Fri: Quiz Three** - due Wed. June 26

**Fri: Paper summary two due (June 21)** (related to topics in Ch 6-7)

## June 24-June 28

Textbook: Ch8, Ch10

Topics covered: Landscape Effects on Population Spatial Spread, Landscape Effects on Community Structure and Dynamics

**Fri: Quiz Four** - due Tue. July 2

**Fri: Paper summary three due (June 28)** (related to topics in Ch 8 or 10)

## July 01-July 03

**\*Tuesday July 02 - term review paper due**

**\*Tuesday July 02 - Final exam posted - due by Wed July 03** (Chs 6-8, 10)

## **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](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

### 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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu)

### 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

Response time to any questions sent by email regarding the course will be answered within 72 hours. However, students are encouraged to interact with the instructor directly during the class time and office hours, if necessary. Exceptions such as widespread internet outage apply.

## Counseling Services Statement

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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Course and University Procedures/Policies:**

#### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies:**

You are expected to check your TAMUC email and d2l every day to check for any announcements. Additional information about all course assessment components is provided under "Course Evaluations". Please do not attend class if feeling ill, if an illness occurs during a course assessment, please see the "General Makeup Policy" section above for guidance.

#### **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: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html) <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

## 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](#)

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

### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

Gee Library- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<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&MCommerce 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. at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.