



BSC 435 Wildlife Habitat Ecology and Management

I. General Information

Course syllabus Fall 2024

Meets 8/26/2024 through 12/13/2024

Location: Campus: Main, Building: STC Room: 136

Lecture Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Archana Srinivas

Office Location: Science Building, STC 235

Student (Office) Hours: MF 4:00 PM-5:30 PM and by appointment

Office Phone: TBA

University Email Address: Archana.Srinivas@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Book: López, R.R., Parker, I.D., and Morrison, M.L. 2017. Applied wildlife habitat management. Texas A&M AgriLife Research and extension services, Texas A&M University Press.

ISBN 9781623495022 (hardcopy)

ISBN 9781623495039 (ebook)

NOT REQUIRED

II. Course Description

This class will expose the student to the history and concepts of an animal's habitat beginning with the ideas of Aldo Leopold to current ideas of what habitat is. Students will be introduced to principles and techniques of habitat management as they apply to forest, rangeland, wetland, and agricultural ecosystems. Current concepts of Conservation Biology such as fragmentation, meta-population ecology, and corridor ecology will also be covered. Students enrolled in this course must be willing to attend field trips when and where feasible to see actual management practices conducted in the field.

III. Student Learning Objectives

To understand relationships between habitat management and wildlife.

To understand principles of habitat management and their application.

To develop a habitat management plan.

To develop communication skills and clarity to present ideas.

IV. Learning strategies

Reading assignments

Analysis of scientific literature

Individual work, analysis of free reading



Written synthesis of information
Oral presentations

V. Assumptions, Expectations, Philosophy

University students are a select group of students soon to be professionals. Instructors can have high expectations of student performance. Demanding courses benefit students more than easy courses. Assignments are due on time unless you have made a prior arrangement with me (only granted for unusual or extenuating circumstances and in case of health issues proper medical excuse is required). Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. This will help you become a better writer, a more rounded individual, and expose you to subjects outside of your immediate knowledge.

VI. Tentative course outline

- Part I. Wildlife-habitat relationships
week: 1
- Part II. Environmental measurements
week: 2-3
- Part III. Analysis of wildlife habitat
week: 4-5
- Part IV. Habitat management techniques
week: 6-10
- Part V. Wildlife habitat planning
week: 11-12
- Part VI. Emerging issues
week: 13-15

VII. Course Requirement and Evaluation Method

Assignments, quizzes, and research papers are required. I encourage student contribution to the overall progress of the group. I encourage interactive participation even though is an online class. It is necessary that students have a professional and ethical behavior through the entire course.

Grade basis:
3 Exams (300 points)
3 Assignments (30 points)
Habitat Management Plan (50 points)
Total 380 points

Penalty enforcement (I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the



minimum expectations).

Make-up quizzes will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor before missing the scheduled quiz. A documented excuse will be required. Otherwise, missing quizzes will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

Grading Scale:

90.0 - 100% = A

80.0 - 89.9% = B

70.0 - 79.9% = C

60.0 - 69.9% = D

<60.0% = F

Quizzes (10)

Students will have oral presentation of scientific articles, presentation will be from 5 to 10 minutes.

Assignments (3)

Journal articles

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. For each assign date, a journal is named in the right column of the table, choose and read a paper from that journal that you find interesting or relevant. These journals are available in our library (online resources). On that date, provide me a citation and a short description of the paper (10 sentences).

| Date | Journal |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 15 SEPT | Rangeland Ecology and Management |
| 20 OCT | Rangelands |
| 17 NOV | The Journal of Wildlife Management |

Habitat management plan and presentation:

You will develop a habitat management plan on a specific habitat. You should identify a specific land (Wildlife management Area, Nature Preserve, National Park, Private ranch, ect.). The Management Plan should have at least 2500 words and should include maps and pictures of the site. 5-minutes video presentation of your plan.

VIII. Course and University and Policies

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement-Students with Disabilities:



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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-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

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.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

Use of AI:

The critical work of creativity and original writing relies on integrity, originality, and ethical conduct in regard to appropriate representation as an author or creator. Thus, submitting work with a significant percentage of AI-generated content, unless otherwise permitted, can be considered academic misconduct under Texas A&M University Student Rule 20. Students must therefore cite the use of Generative AI tools and document what they have contributed to an assignment.

Campus Concealed Carry - 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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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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