



# NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

## AG 423 01W

### FALL 2025

Instructor: Dr. Pedro M. Chavarria  
Course Location: Online  
Course Hours: TBA; Web  
Office Location: AG/ET 154  
Office Hours: By appointment, schedule by e-mail  
Office Phone: 903.886.5615  
University Email Address: Pedro.Chavarria@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Textbook(s) Required:**

1. Lant, C. 2023. Natural Resources Sustainability: An introductory synthesis. Utah Education Network Digital Press with Pressbooks.  
<<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/natural-resources-sustainability-an-introductory-synthesis>> Accessed 12 January 2025.
2. Uttarakhand Open University. 2025. Fundamentals of Natural Resource Management. Uttarakhand Open University.  
<<https://www.uou.ac.in/sites/default/files/slm/GEOG-502.pdf>> Accessed 12 January 2025.

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

### **Course Description**

An investigation of best management practices and conservation techniques used by land owners and managers to protect renewable natural resources from intensive agricultural production methods. Emphasis will be on preventing soil loss and contamination, maintaining water quality, and protecting wildlife habitat.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Natural Resource Management principles
2. Understand ecological concepts of soil, water, air, wildlife, and energy management
3. Recognize regulations, permits, and governmental agencies
4. Understand principles of sustainable resource management
5. Demonstrate how to formulate components of a resource management plan

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

You must be proficient in navigating myleonline.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 myleonline.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. Forum discussions: Weekly 10 x 20 pts. each = 200 pts.
2. Module Quizzes (Multiple Choice): 5 x 50 pts = 250 pts.
3. Water Resources Report: 50 pts.
4. Web Soil Survey Report: 50 pts.
5. Energy Resources Report: 50 pts.
6. Recorded Video Presentation (10 mins) = 100 pts.
7. Resource Management Plan: 100 pts.
8. Final Exam: 200 pts

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### **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 participation grade will be based on weekly Forum Discussions. You must participate in class discussions posted on forums on our course shell in myLeo. There will be a total of 5 forum discussions posted to which you must respond to the week's topic or questions and responses provided by your instructor and classmates. Each student will be required to create an original forum post and reply to a post each week.

There will also be 5 Module Quizzes spread throughout the semester, about 1 every 2.5 weeks. These will be open-note, open-book and will vary between multiple choice and short response.

### **Resource Management Plan:**

You will be responsible for putting together a "Resource Management Plan" that resolves a unique resource management challenge in the state of Texas. This will include at least 5 chapters that describe the resources in a particular private, state, or public land management area of interest used in the conservation of energy, plant, animal, water, and soil resources. You may use portion of the water resources, energy resources, web soil survey reports worked on previously in the semester as chapters for this resource management plan.

### **Recorded Video Presentation:**

You will work individually on giving a pre-recorded 15-20 minute presentation on a natural resource management topic of interest related to a current event (within the past 1-2 years) in the U.S. or internationally. The presentation will summarize the challenges in managing a particular natural resource and viable solutions already suggested by professionals as well as 2-3 other creative solutions that you suggest which are "outside the box" and have not yet been considered in that scenario.

<b>Course week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Weekly agenda</b>
Week 1	1/14-1/16	<b>Course introduction</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Syllabus overview</li><li>2. My background in Natural Resource Management</li><li>3. How to prepare a Powerpoint presentation</li></ol>
		Readings: Definition, Nature, and Classification of Resources (GEOG-502 Textbook, Chapter 1)  The Oldest Task in Human History: Perspective of NRM in the U.S.

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		<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. (Holiday)—No class</b>
		1. Readings (Lant, Chapters 1-2) 2. Natural Resources Sustainability in a Nutshell 3. Lessons from Environmental History
		Assignment Overview: Natural Resource Management Plans
Week 2		Natural Resource Management Models and Approaches Readings (GEOG-52 Text, Chapter 2)
		Relevant Fundamentals of Physical Geography and Geology Readings (Lant, Chapter 3)  <b>Module Quiz #1</b>
Week 2		Soils Management in the U.S: NRCS  Readings (Lant, Chapter 13)
		Web Soil Survey and Assignment Overview
Week 3		Water Quality Management in the U.S.: EPA, USGS  Readings (Lant, Chapter 12)
		USGS and EPA Water Quality Research and Assignment Overview
Week 4-16		(Scheduled Online)

## 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)

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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

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

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